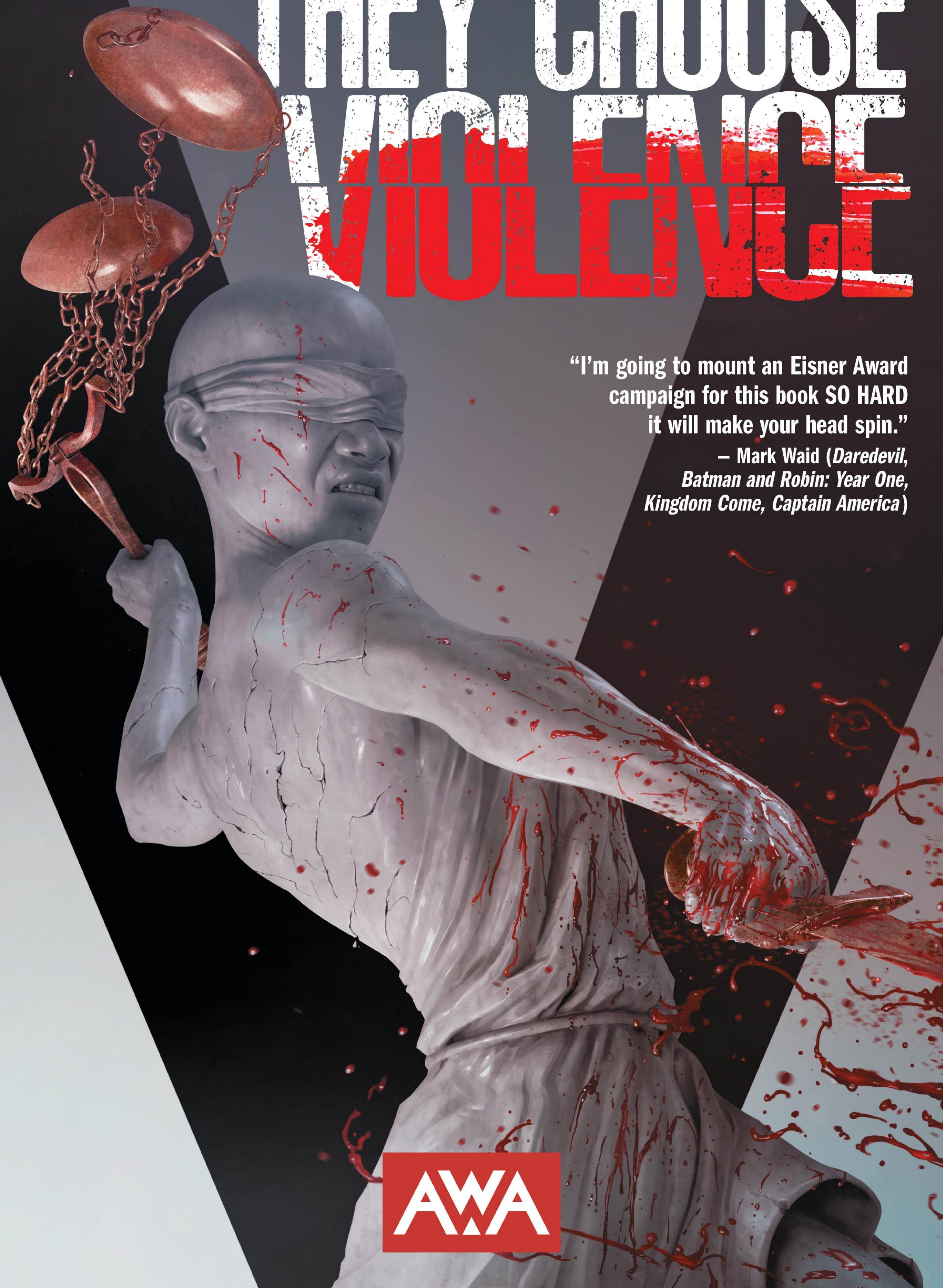
Sheldon Allen Mauricio Campetella Daniele Caramanico

THEY CHOOSE VIOLENCE



"I'm going to mount an Eisner Award campaign for this book SO HARD it will make your head spin."
– Mark Waid (*Daredevil, Batman and Robin: Year One, Kingdom Come, Captain America*)

AWA

AWA

presents

THEY CHOOSE VIOLENCE

Written by
Sheldon Allen

Illustrated by
Mauricio Campetella

Colored by
Daniele Caramanico

Lettered by
Matt Bowers

Covers by
Rahzzah

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...AND JUDGMENT FOR ALL

As Marvel Comics' Editor-In-Chief, I frequently drew the ire of critics in anticipation of a project I was working on. Oftentimes, those projects dealt with the intersection of race and culture. The critics came from both ends of the political spectrum, their preconceptions cemented into judgment.

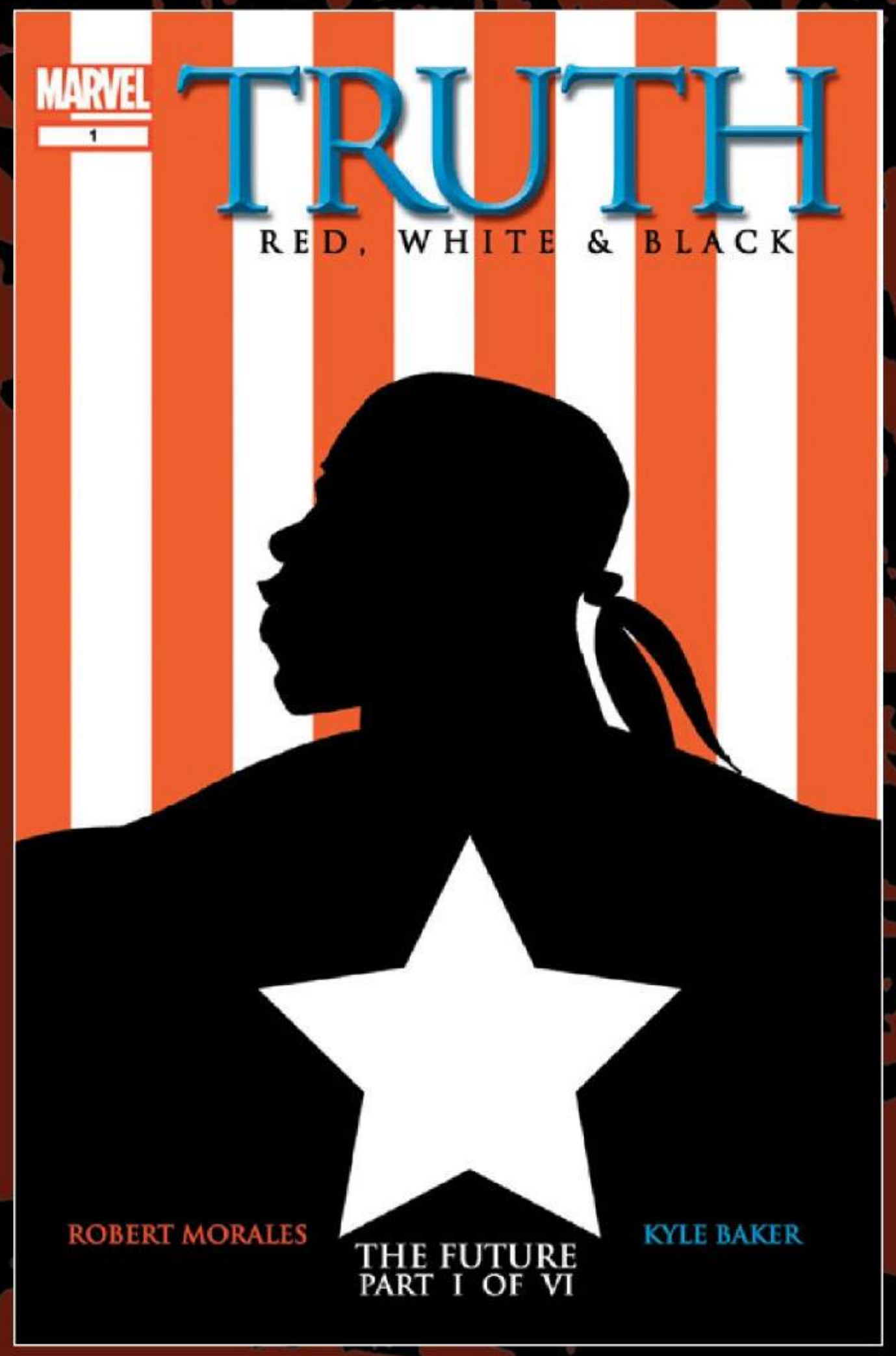
Take 2001's ***Truth: Red, White & Black***, for instance, which related the story of a regiment of African-American soldiers who were Uncle Sam's original test subjects for the Super Soldier serum that was eventually injected into the veins of one Steve Rogers. When word leaked about the story's premise, the critics came out in droves — their core assumption being that this story would somehow tarnish the legacy of their beloved character. Of course, once people actually *read* the story, and saw for themselves that Isaiah Bradley and Steve Rogers were brothers in arms, the furor died down. But not before some really nasty (sometimes even racist) words had been used to attack the creators — writer Robert Morales and artist Kyle Baker — and me, the series editor.

More than a decade later, it was left-leaning critics that came out with pitchforks when Marvel announced the Hip-Hop variant cover program. "Cultural appropriation," they screamed — despite the fact the initiative was a labor of love undertaken by multicultural artists (predominantly Black) that was quickly celebrated by the Hip-Hop artists whose albums we'd paid tribute to. When Nas himself praised the initiative, one critic even doubled down, writing, "He's entitled to his opinion."

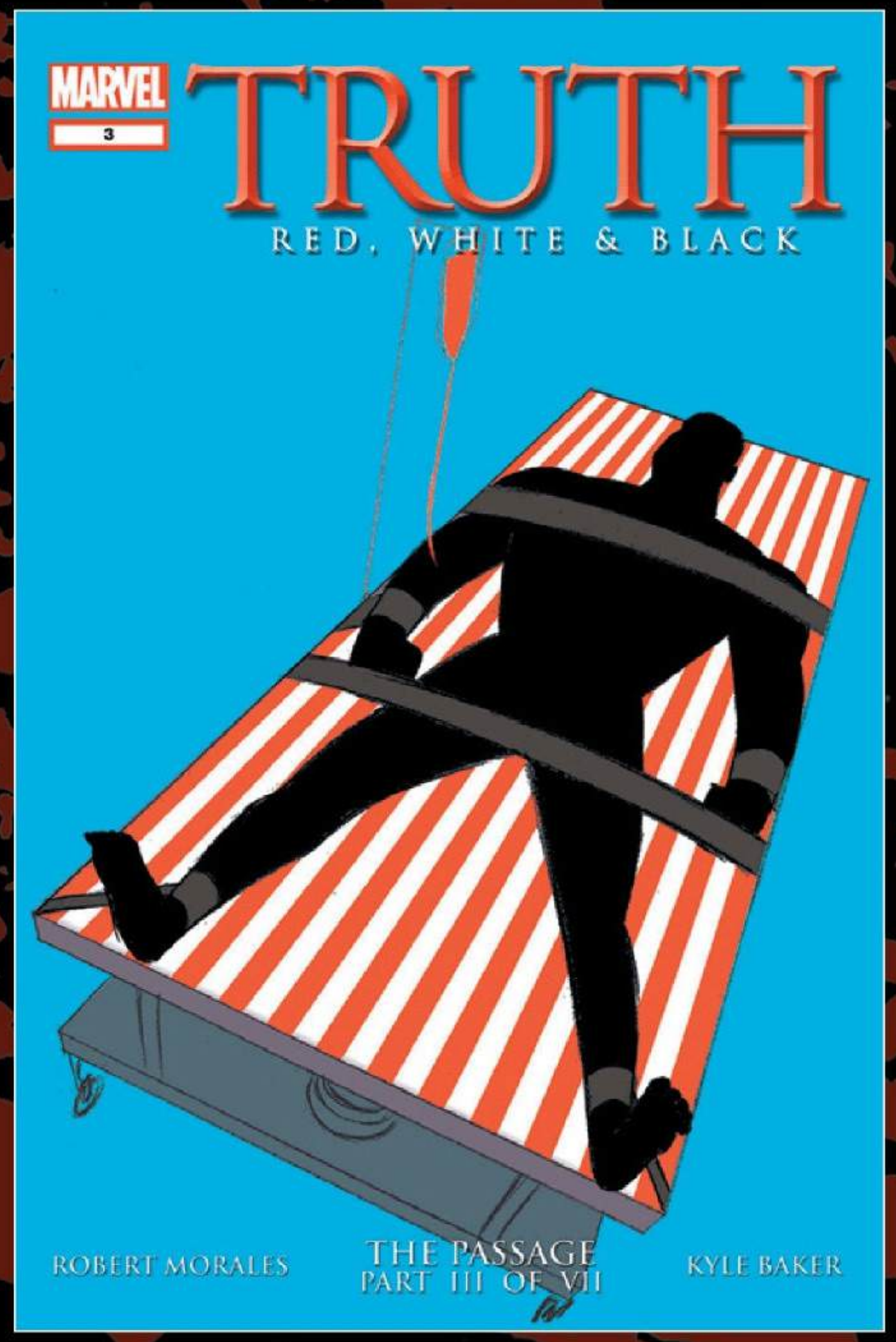
Of course, one need not pass advance judgment on art to harbor preconceptions. I mean, when I started reading Sheldon Allen's outline for ***They Choose Violence***, I thought I knew *exactly* where the story was headed. Boy was I wrong. While ***They Choose Violence*** weighs in on one of the most heated topics of our day — racial violence — it cuts against the grain of every expectation. This is no formulaic revenge saga for a "woke" audience, with clear-cut heroes and villains; it is the thrilling, cathartic and challenging tale of a three-women vigilante squad whose revenge fantasy collides with the grim reality of unintended consequences. It's got murders that'd make the Punisher wince, plot twists that'll spin your head, and a supremely capable antagonist whose "origin story" will burrow deep under your skin, add a whole new layer to the story, and maybe even move you.

What happens when your actions fuel your enemy's agenda? What happens when violence begets violence begets even more violence until the only path forward might be escalation? Buckle up and see.

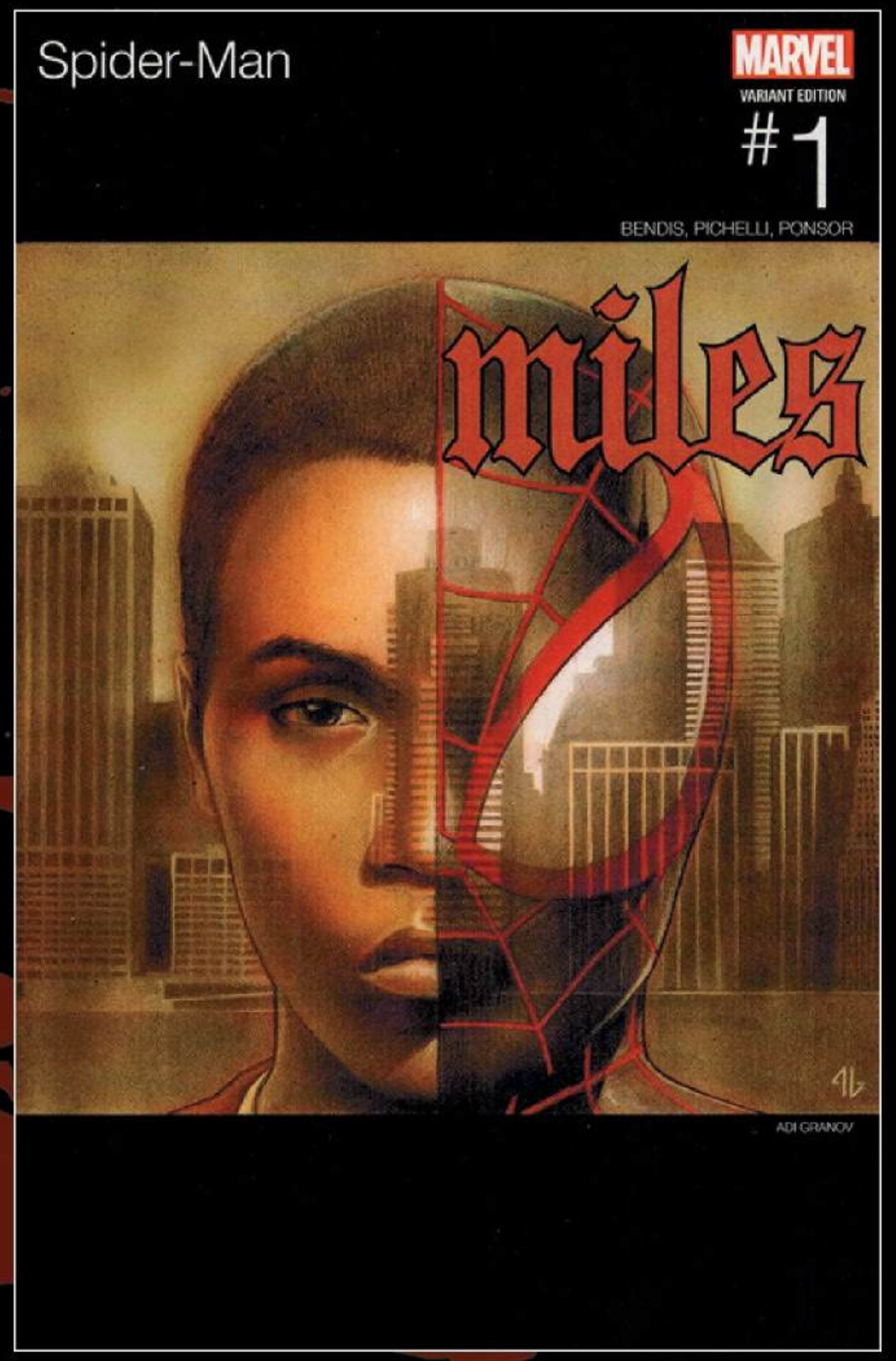
Axel Alonso
May 2025


MARVEL
TRUTH
RED, WHITE & BLACK
ROBERT MORALES
THE FUTURE PART I OF VI
KYLE BAKER

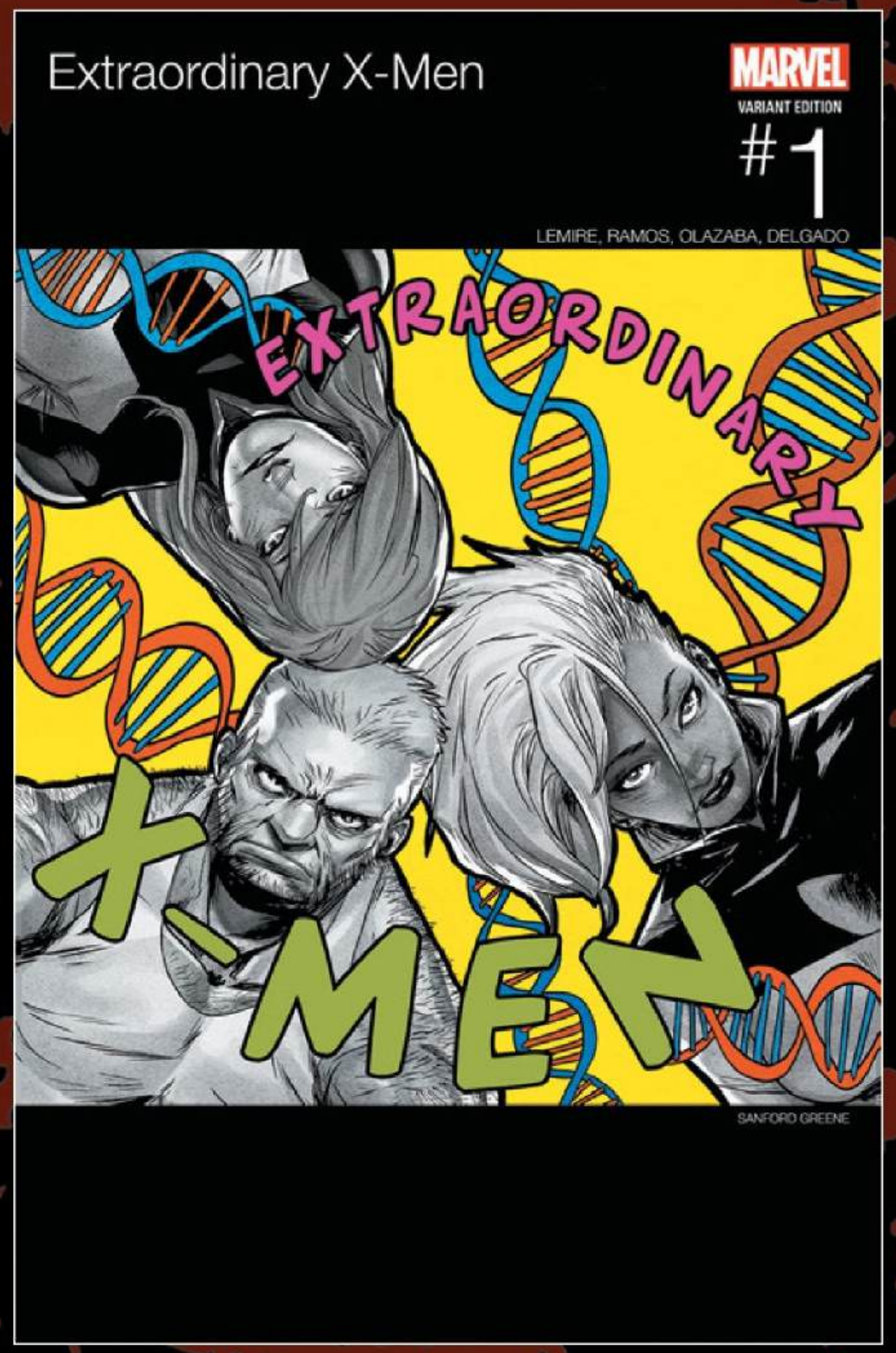
***Truth: Red, White & Black* #1 cover by Kyle Baker. Published by Marvel Comics, 2001.**


MARVEL
TRUTH
RED, WHITE & BLACK
ROBERT MORALES
THE PASSAGE PART III OF VI
KYLE BAKER

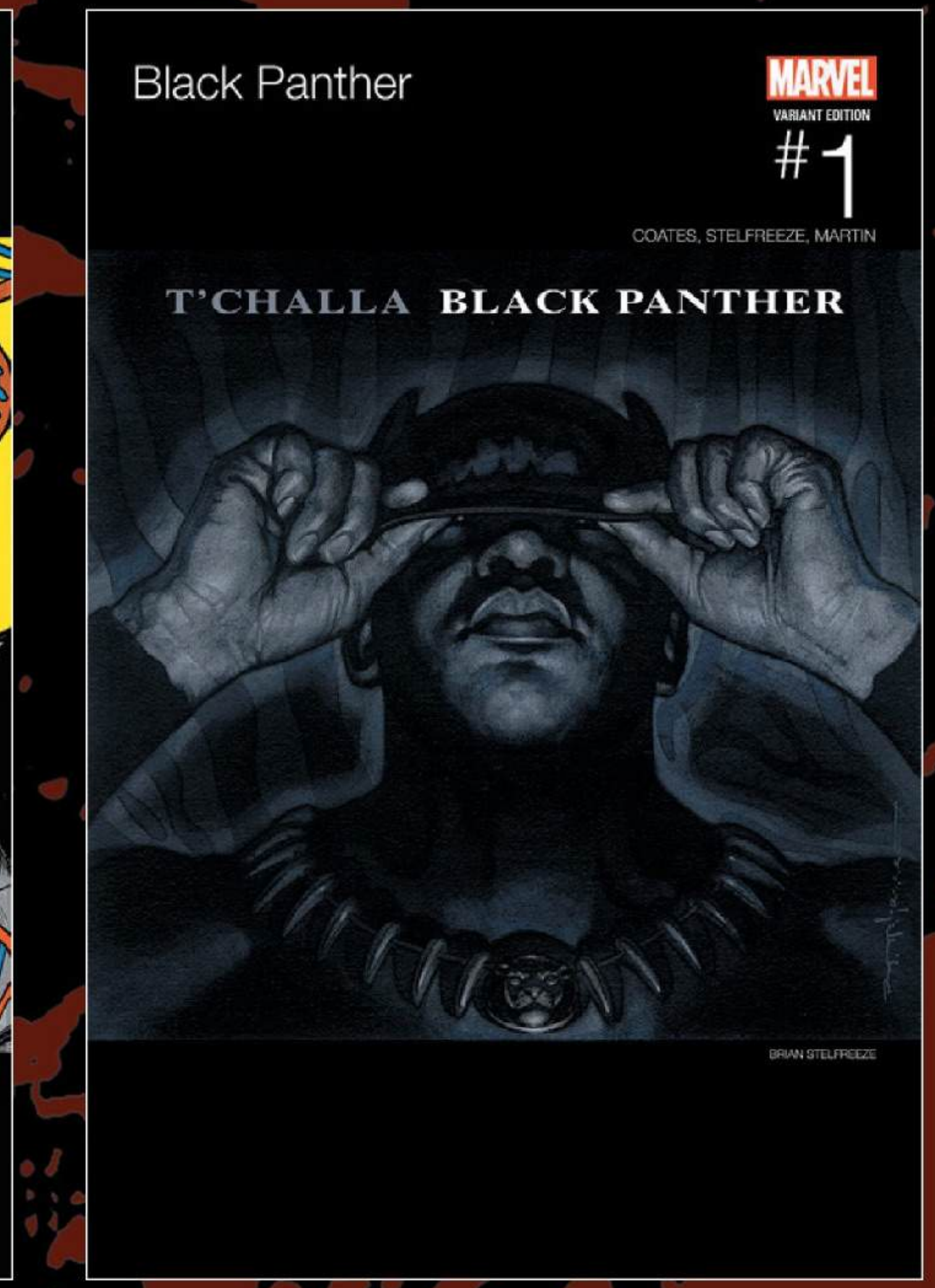
***Truth: Red, White & Black* #3 cover by Kyle Baker. Published by Marvel Comics, 2001.**


Spider-Man
MARVEL
VARIANT EDITION
#1
BENDIS, PICHELLI, PONSOR
miles

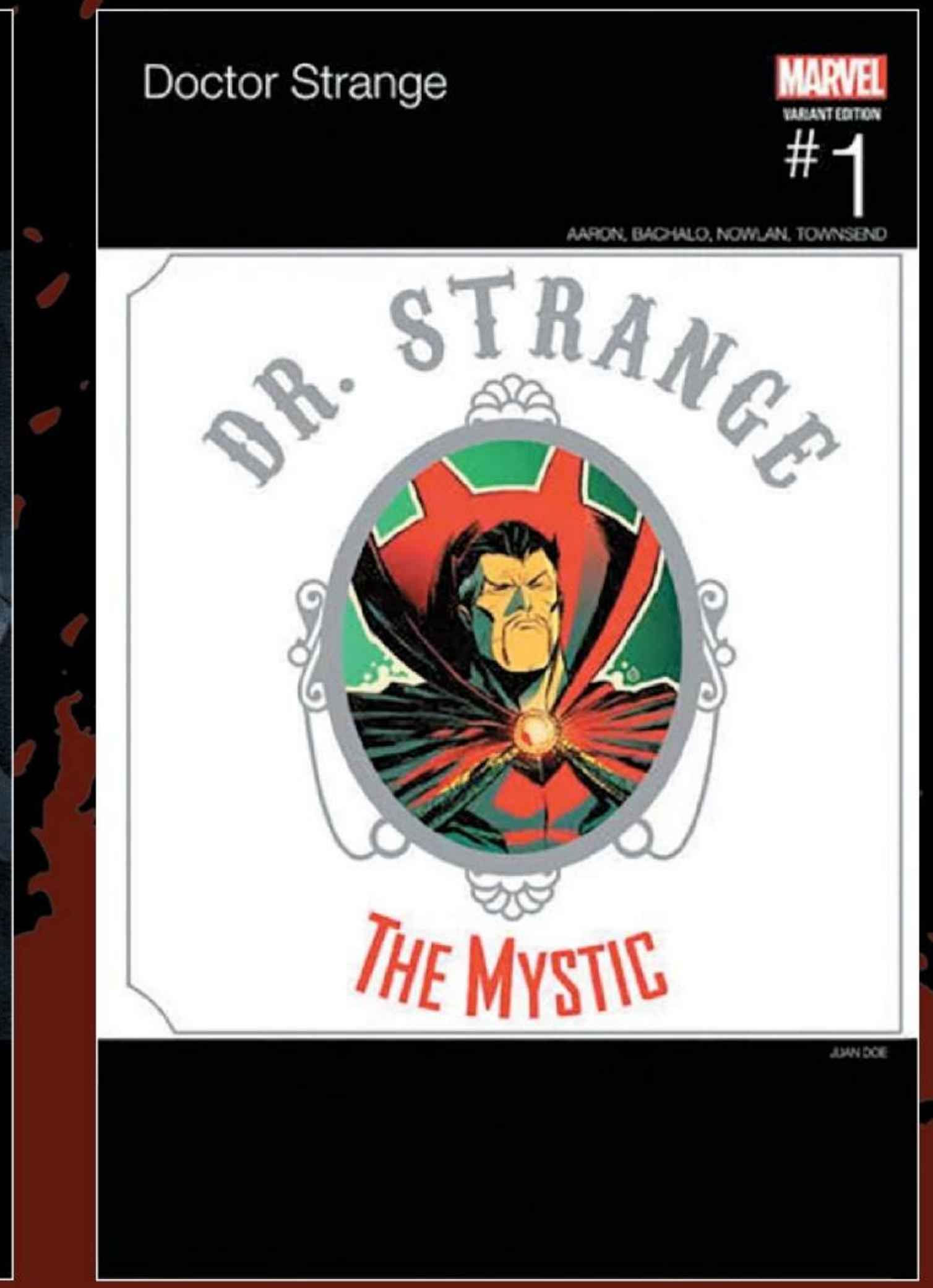
***Spider-Man* #1 hip-hop variant cover by Adi Granov. Published by Marvel Comics, 2016.**


Extraordinary X-Men
MARVEL
VARIANT EDITION
#1
LEMIRE, RAMOS, OLAZABA, DELGADO
EXTRAORDINARY
X-MEN

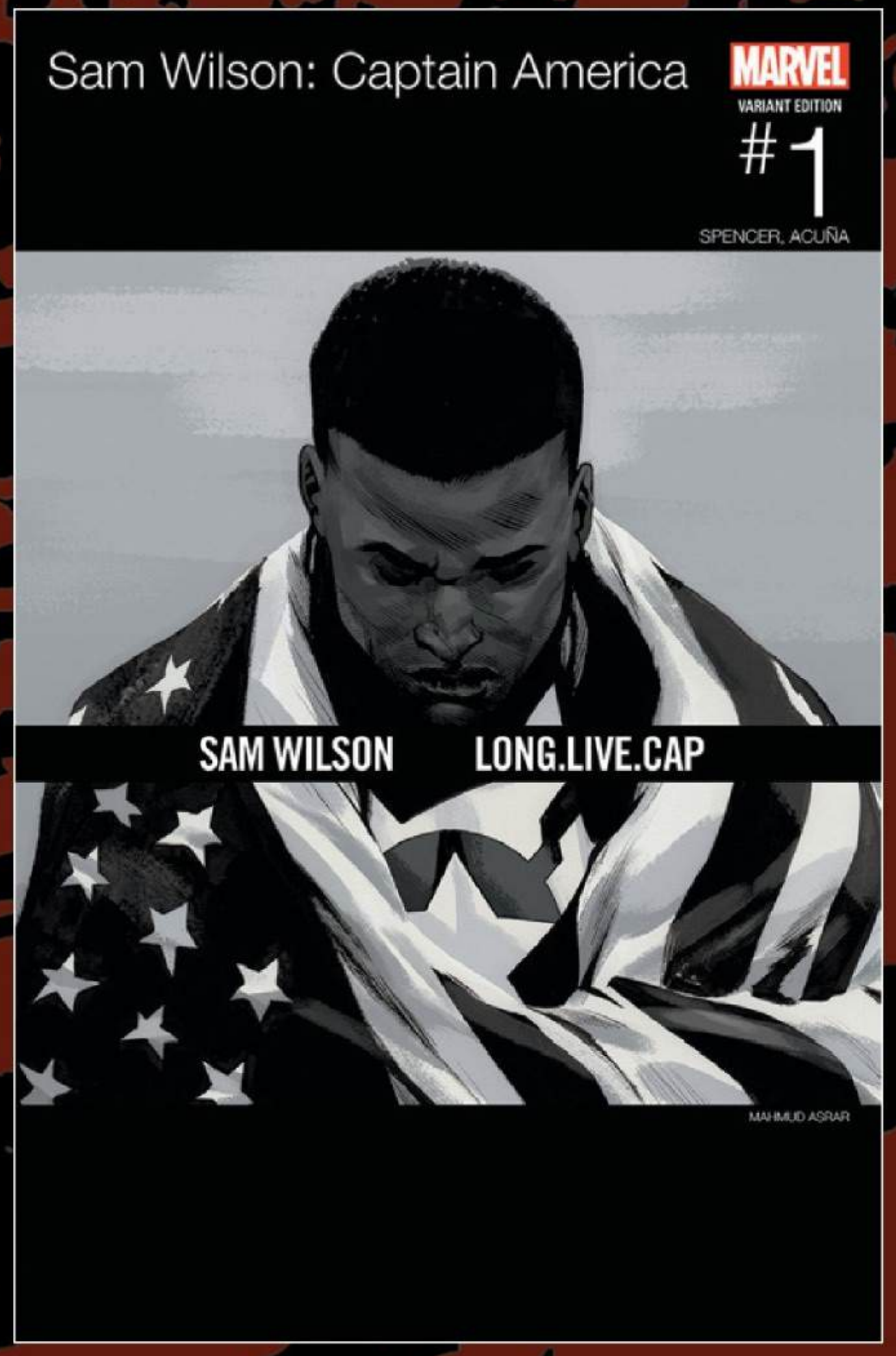
***Extraordinary X-Men* #1 hip-hop variant cover by Sanford Greene. Published by Marvel Comics, 2015.**


Black Panther
MARVEL
VARIANT EDITION
#1
COATES, STELFREEZE, MARTIN
T'CHALLA BLACK PANTHER

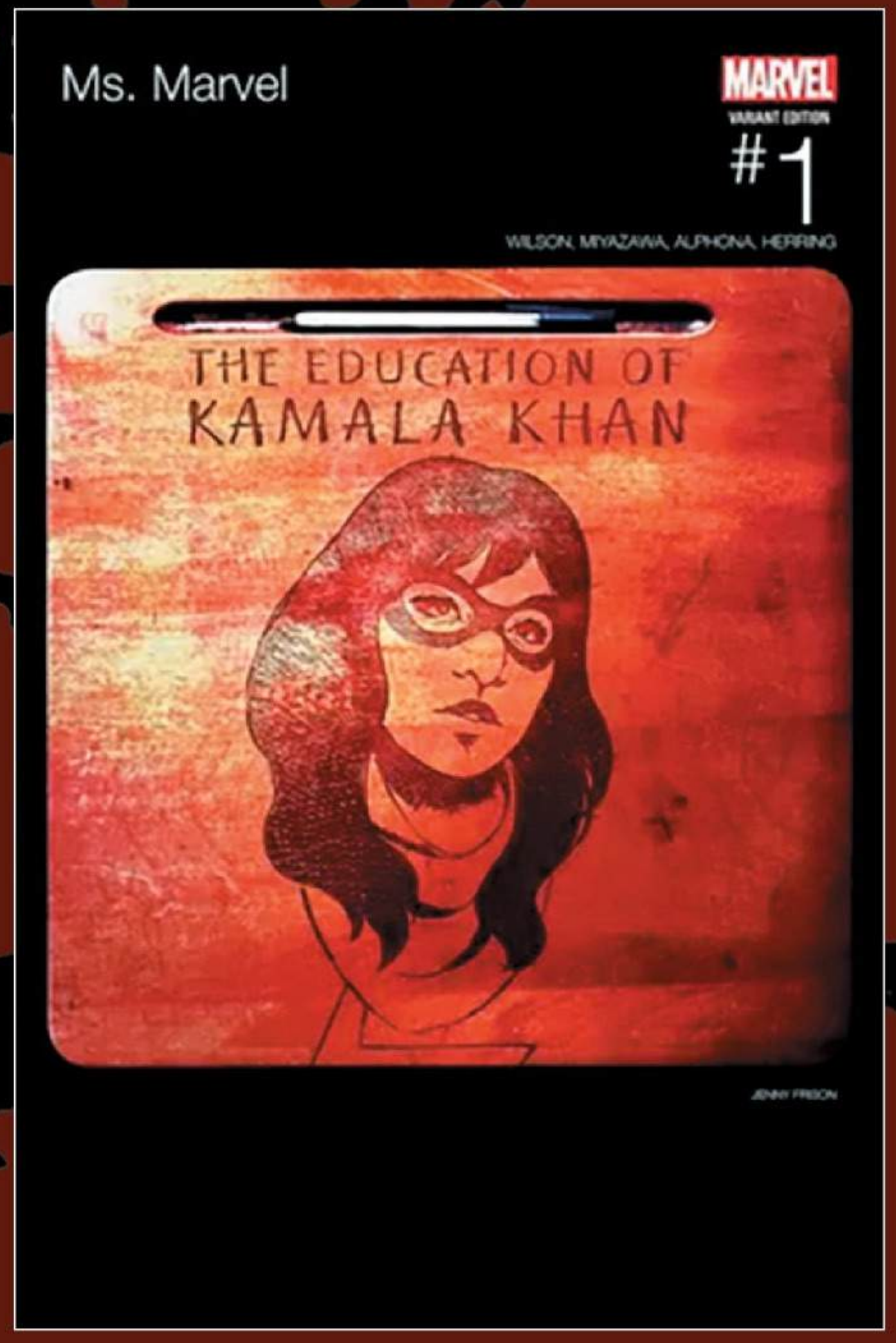
***Black Panther* #1 hip-hop variant cover by Brian Stelfreeze. Published by Marvel Comics, 2016.**


Doctor Strange
MARVEL
VARIANT EDITION
#1
AARON, BACHALO, NOWLAN, TOWNSEND
DR. STRANGE
THE MYSTIC

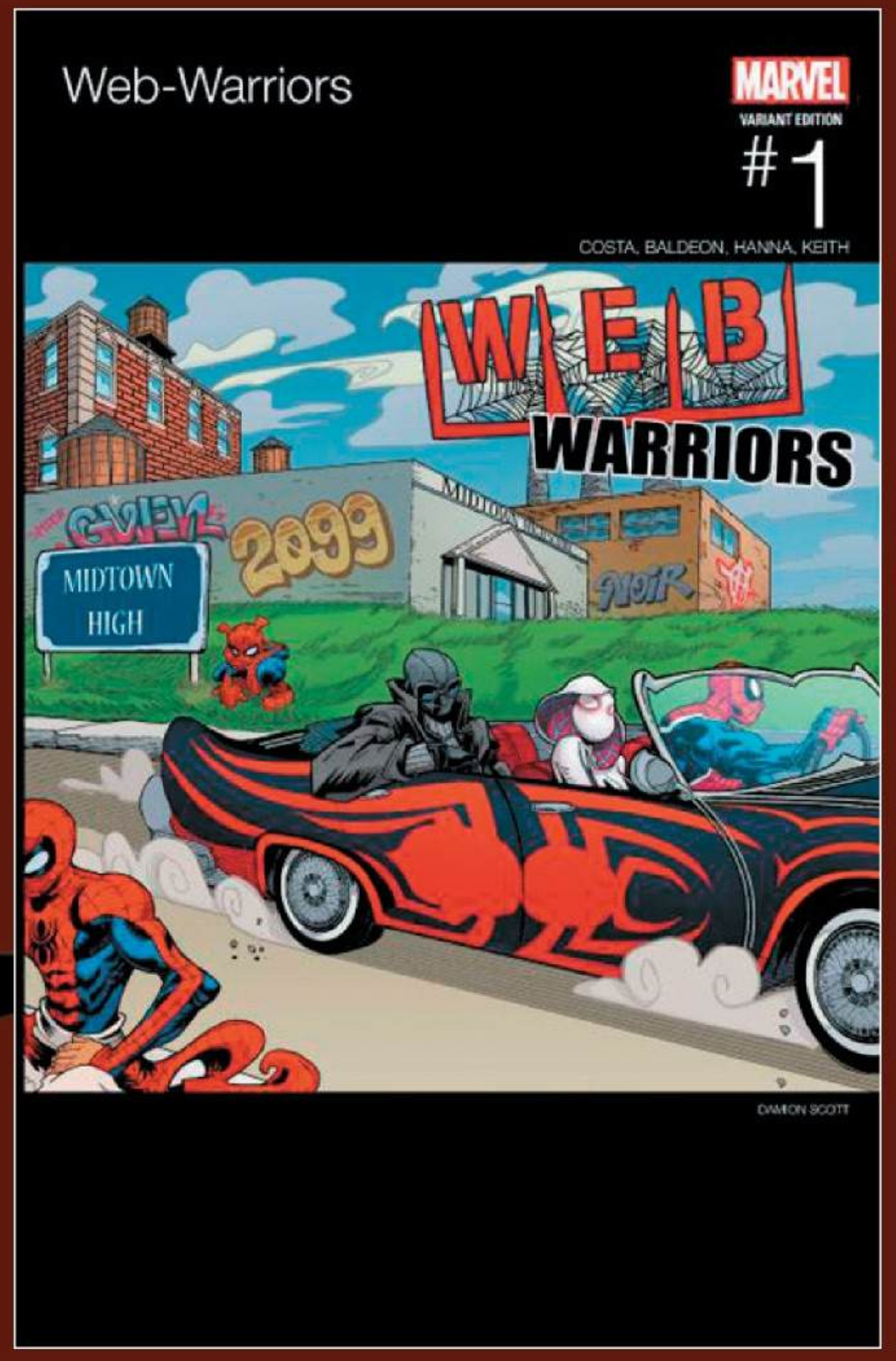
***Doctor Strange* #1 hip-hop variant cover by Juan Doe. Published by Marvel Comics, 2015.**


Sam Wilson: Captain America
MARVEL
VARIANT EDITION
#1
SPENCER, ACUÑA
SAM WILSON
LONG.LIVE.CAP

***Captain America* #1 hip-hop variant cover by Mahmud Asrar. Published by Marvel Comics, 2015.**


Ms. Marvel
MARVEL
VARIANT EDITION
#1
WILSON, MIYAZAWA, ALPHONA, HERRING
THE EDUCATION OF KAMALA KHAN

***Ms. Marvel* #1 hip-hop variant cover by Jenny Frison. Published by Marvel Comics, 2015.**


Web-Warriors
MARVEL
VARIANT EDITION
#1
COSTA, BALDEON, HANNA, KEITH
W.E.B.
WARRIORS
2099
MIDTOWN HIGH

***Web Warriors* #1 hip-hop variant cover by Damion Scott. Published by Marvel Comics, 2015.**

They Choose Violence #1 variant cover by Kyle Baker

...The baddest Three-Chick Hit-Squad that ever hit town!

"They Choose Violence"

MATURE
UNDER 17 REQUIRES COMIC TO BE READ BY AN ACCOMPANYING PARENT OR ADULT GUARDIAN

Axel M. Alonso presents
an Artists, Writers & Artisans Comic

writer **SHELDON ALLEN** · illustrator **MAURICIO CAMPETELLA** · colorist **DANIELE CARAMANICO** · and letterer **MATT BOWERS**

Edited by Axel Alonso and Michael Coast • Variant cover by Kyle Baker • Designed by Chris Ferguson

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061825

"I don't even call it violence when it's
in self defense; I call it intelligence."
– MALCOLM X

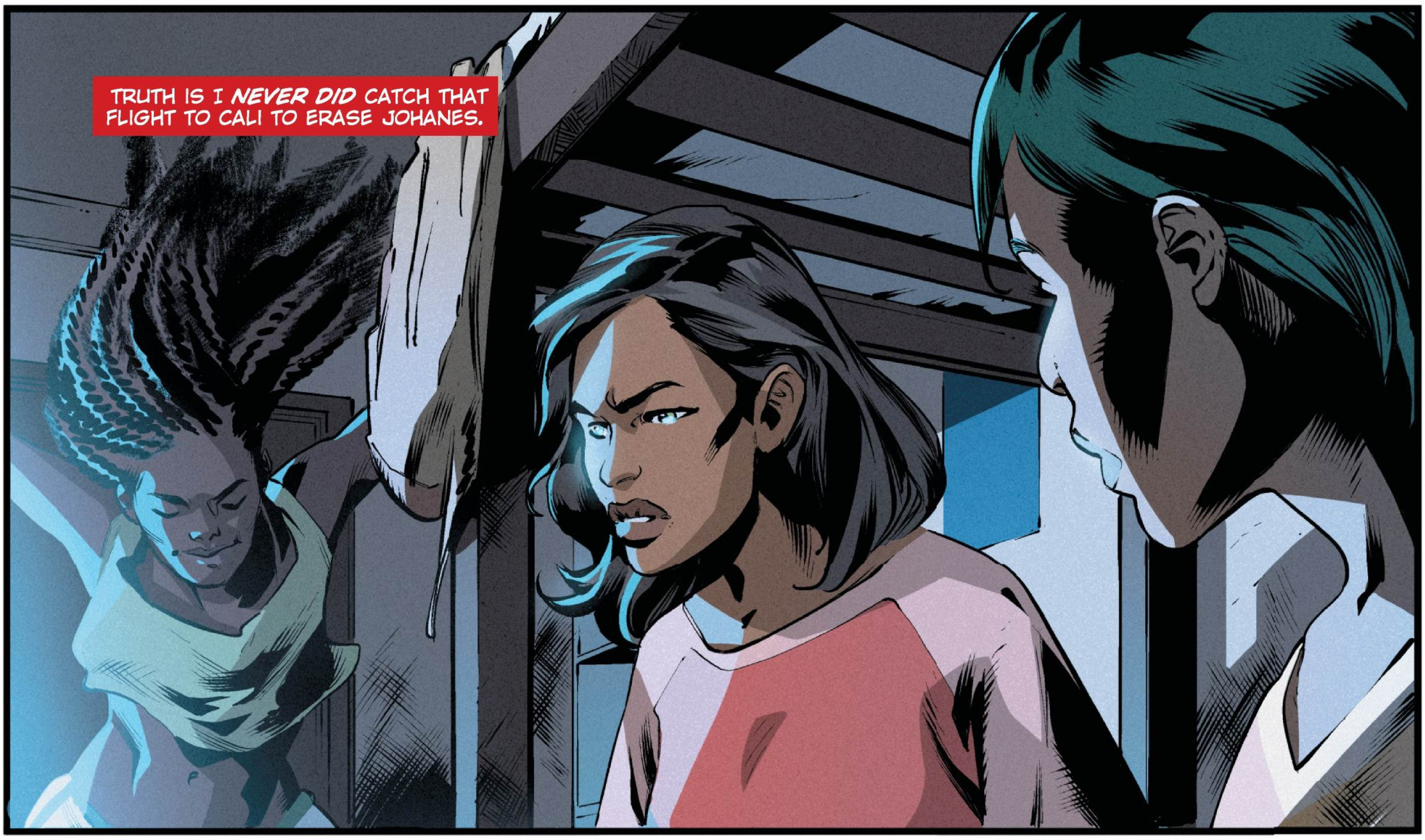
Chapter 01

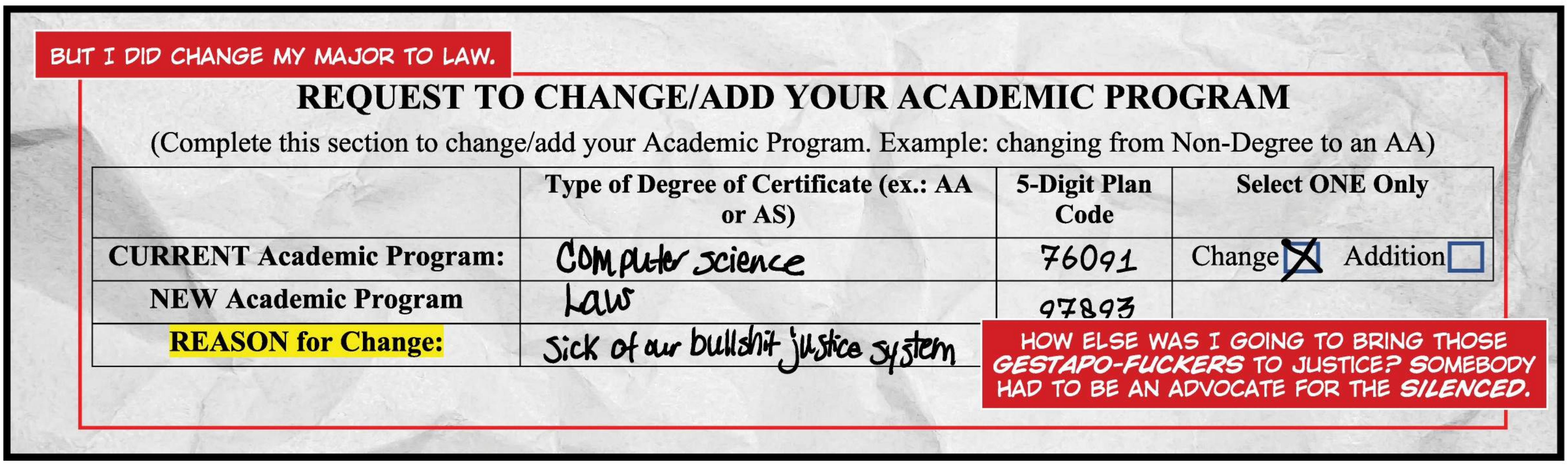
A GIRL ALWAYS REMEMBERS *HER FIRST.*
FIRST *CRUSH.*
FIRST *KISS.*
SKAT
FIRST *TIME.*

FIRST *HEARTBREAK.*
I THINK WE SHOULD SEE OTHER PEOPLE.
FIRST *JOB.*
24
I'M SORRY, SIR, THE *MCFLURRY MACHINE* IS DOWN *AGAIN.*
FIRST *LOSS.*
FIRST *MURDER.*

FIGURATIVELY IN THIS CASE.
TWO YEARS?! THAT'S IT? THAT'S ALL HE GETS? TWO MEASLY BUM ASS YEARS?!
OSCAR WAS MURDERED! IN COLD BLOOD! THEY TOOK HIM FROM US!
HE HAD A FAMILY. HE HAD A BABY GIRL.
SHE'LL NEVER GET TO SEE HER FATHER SPROUT INTO THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWER HE WAS BECOMING.
SHIT AIN'T RIGHT, LANEKA.
STATE SANCTIONED MURDER IS WHAT IT IS, DEIDRE.
FUCK ALL THAT, KAREN.
I'M CATCHING A FLIGHT TO OAKTOWN AND I'M KILLING A PIG.
MIND MADE UP. ZERO FUCKS GIVEN.
DON'T ATTEMPT TO TALK ME OUT OF IT.

AND *KILL A PIG* I DID. I *SHOT HIM.*
STABBED HIM.
BURNED HIM.
DROWNED HIM IN A TOILET I JUST SPRAYED WITH DIARRHEA.
SUFFOCATED HIM.
BLUDGEONED HIM.
ELECTROCUTED HIM.
HUNG HIM.
BLEACHED HIM.
AT LEAST, IN MY HEAD I DID.


TRUTH IS I *NEVER DID* CATCH THAT FLIGHT TO CALI TO ERASE JOHANES.

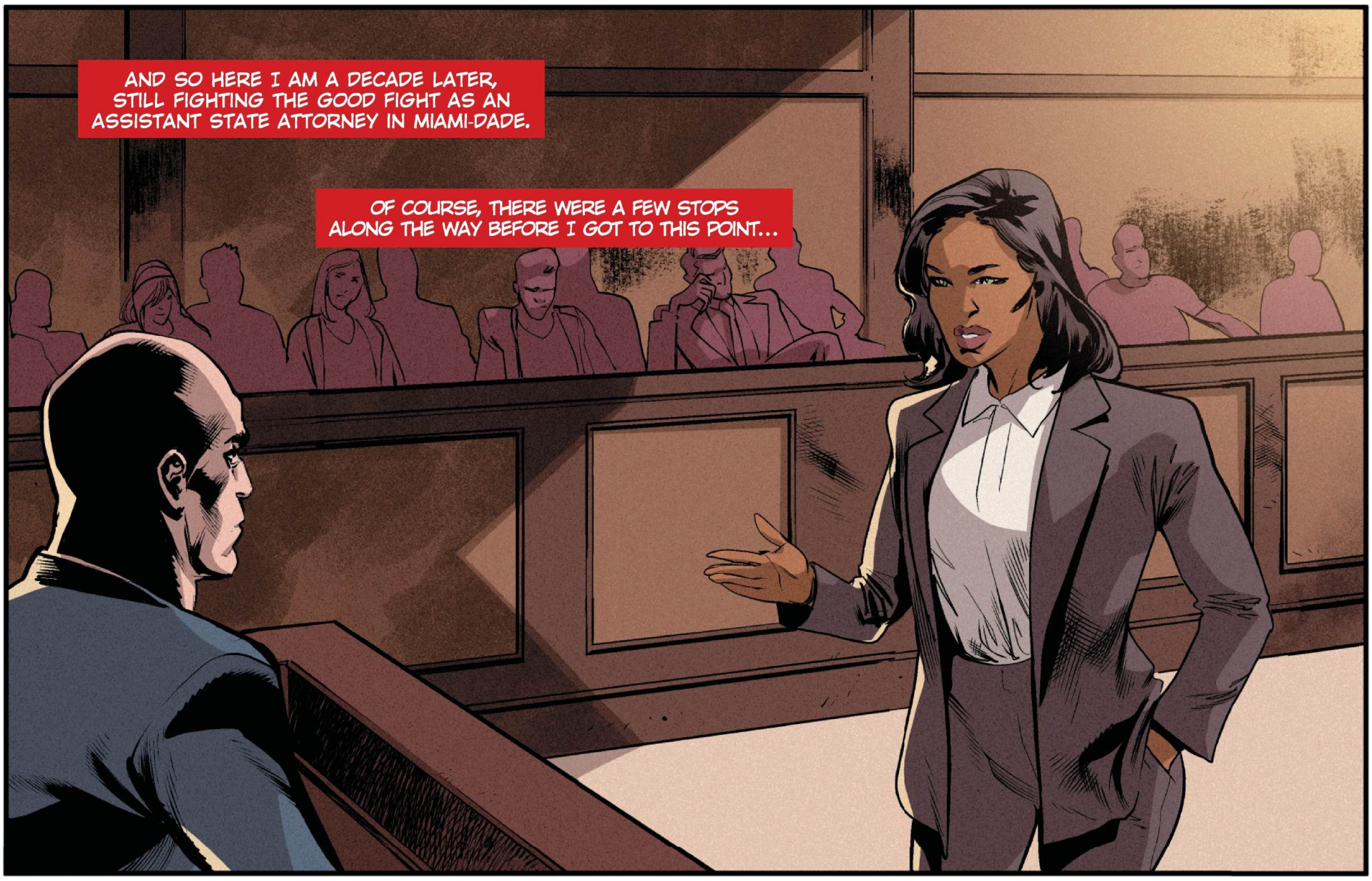

BUT I DID CHANGE MY MAJOR TO LAW.

REQUEST TO CHANGE/ADD YOUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM

(Complete this section to change/add your Academic Program. Example: changing from Non-Degree to an AA)

	Type of Degree of Certificate (ex.: AA or AS)	5-Digit Plan Code	Select ONE Only
CURRENT Academic Program:	Computer science	76091	Change ☒ Addition ☐
NEW Academic Program	Law	97893	
REASON for Change:	Sick of our bullshit justice system		

HOW ELSE WAS I GOING TO BRING THOSE *GESTAPO-FUCKERS* TO JUSTICE? SOMEBODY HAD TO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR THE *SILENCED.*


AND SO HERE I AM A DECADE LATER, STILL FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT AS AN ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY IN MIAMI-DADE.
OF COURSE, THERE WERE A FEW STOPS ALONG THE WAY BEFORE I GOT TO THIS POINT...

SANFORD, FLORIDA.
END STAND YOUR GROUND
HEAR US!
CALL IT RACISM
Justic For Trayv
WE REMEMBER
FERGUSON, MISSOURI.
HANDS UP, DON'T SHOOT!
17
CLEVELAND, OHIO.
NO!
IS MY FUTURE SON NEXT?
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.
DO YOU BELIEVE US NOW?
HEMPSTEAD, TEXAS.
SAY HER NAME
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA.
ENOUGH ALREADY!
WHITE SILENCE = DEATH
END BLACK GENOCIDE

STATE ATTORNEY CONFERENCE ROOM.
...AND NOW I'D LIKE TO ADDRESS SOME OF THE *RUMORS* CIRCULATING OUT THERE ABOUT MY *FUTURE PLANS.*
THAT'S *HANNAH MIRANDA CULLEN.* MIAMI-DADE STATE ATTORNEY.
DESPITE THE *UNFOUNDED SPECULATION* PRINTED IN THE LOCAL MENSTRUATION RAG KNOWN AS THE HERALD, THE FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS NOT RECRUITING ME TO RUN FOR *STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL.*
IN OVER *TWO* DECADES ON THE JOB, SHE HAS *NEVER* BROUGHT AN OFFICER TO TRAIL FOR *MISCONDUCT.*
P
P
P
RUMOR HAS IT SHE'S GETTING HER *BACK BLOWN OUT* BY THE POLICE UNION CHIEF. BUT I AIN'T ONE TO GOSSIP, SO YOU AIN'T HEAR IT FROM *ME.*
SO NOW THAT YOU'VE HEARD IT STRAIGHT FROM THE *HORSE'S MOUTH,* I WANT TO BRIEFLY COMMENT ON *OFFICER DANIEL SANTIAGO'S CASE.*
AH YES, *OFFICER DANIEL SANTIAGO.* LET'S *TALK ABOUT HIM, SHALL WE?*

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY POLICE OFFICER WITH HISTORY OF ABUSE? CHECK.
ACTIVE POSTER ON CONSPIRACY THEORY-TOUTING RACIST MESSAGE BOARD? CHECK.
Daniel Santiago
Guess Who i was for Halloween?
Like
Comment
Patrick Hoffman
You're hilarious man!
Rob Smith
hahahahaha
#GUESS WHO I WAS FOR HALLOWEEN?
SHOOTING INCIDENT INVOLVING UNARMED BLACK YOUTH? CHECK.
BODY CAM FOOTAGE DISPUTING OFFICER ACCOUNT OF SAID INCIDENT? CHECK.
CULLEN INACTION? BIG FUCKING CHECK.
--WHILE I UNDERSTAND THE SENSITIVITY SURROUNDING THIS CASE, PARTICULARLY IN OUR HASHTAG AGENDA DRIVEN CLIMATE; THE FULL SLATE OF FACTS SURROUNDING THIS UNFORTUNATE TRAGEDY HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC, AND UNTIL THEY HAVE--
--NO DECISION AS TO MR. SANTIAGO'S FATE WILL BE MADE.
DOES ANYONE DOUBT HOW THIS WILL END?

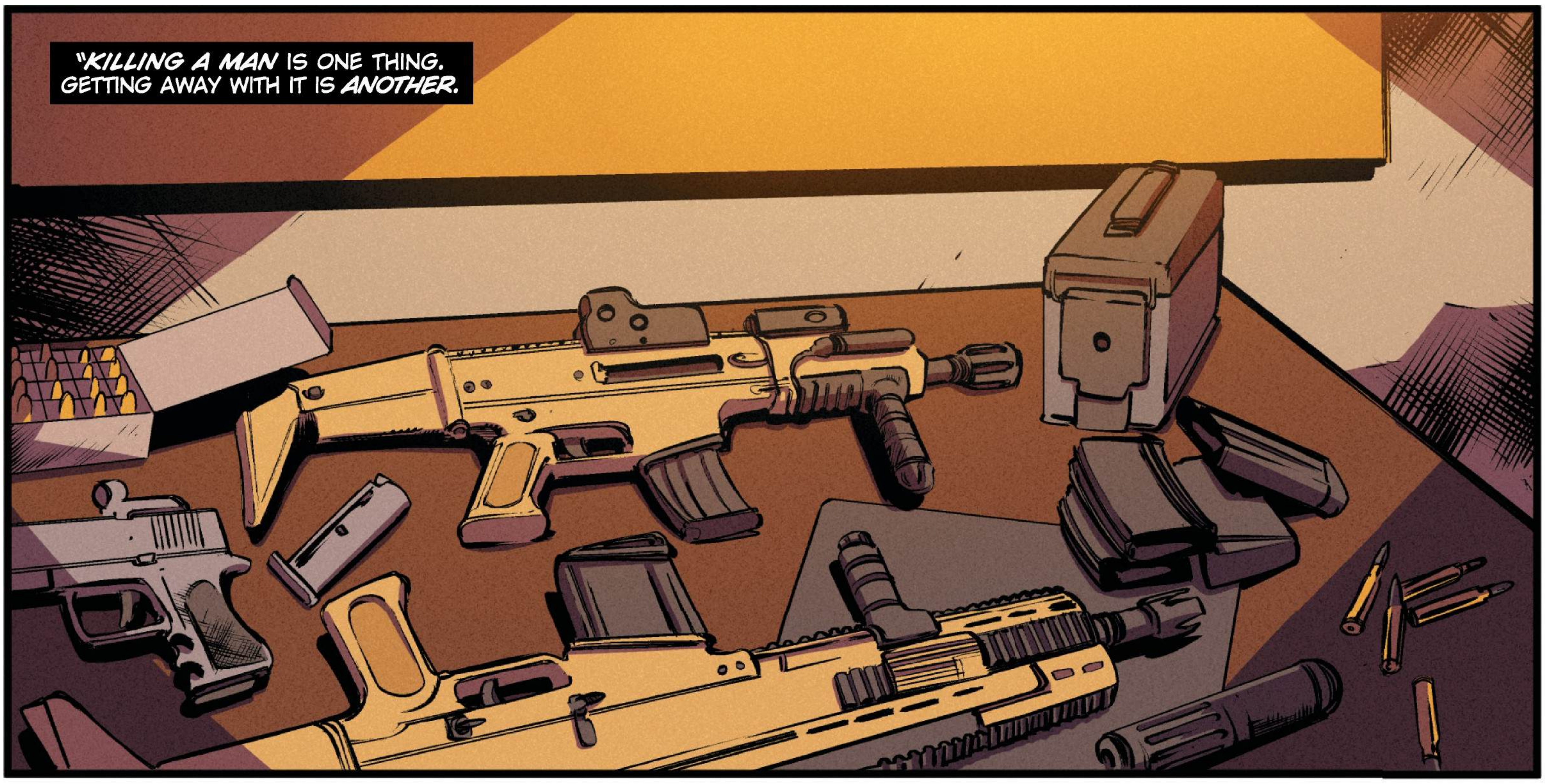
I JUST WANT TO THANK MY LAWYERS, MY *UNION, MS. CULLEN* AND THE GREAT FOLKS AT *HER OFFICE*...
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU'VE SEEN IT BEFORE--A LITTLE CORNER OF YOUR SOUL TELLS YOU, "NOT THIS TIME. *THIS TIME IT'LL BE DIFFERENT*. YOU'LL SEE."
CHANNEL
8 NEWS
FUCK THAT CORNER.
...THIS IS A HARD JOB, BUT I HAVE *NO REGRETS*, AND I'M JUST GLAD THERE'LL BE NO TRIAL AND I CAN GET BACK TO DOING WHAT I *DO BEST*.
COME GET YOUR PEOPLE, KAREN. I MEAN *WHAT THE ACTUAL FUCK?*
"YOUR PEOPLE"? THE *FUCK YOU MEAN* "YOUR PEOPLE"?
I KNOW THAT *GOOSE STEPPER*, AND HE HAS NO BUSINESS CARRYING A *GUN OR A SHIELD*.
IT'S NOTHING BUT A *FUCKING GAME* TO THEM. THEY'RE NOT EVEN BOTHERING TO PRETEND ANYMORE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR CASE THAT *SHOOK* ME HARDER THAN THE OTHERS. MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE IT WAS SO *CLOSE TO HOME*.

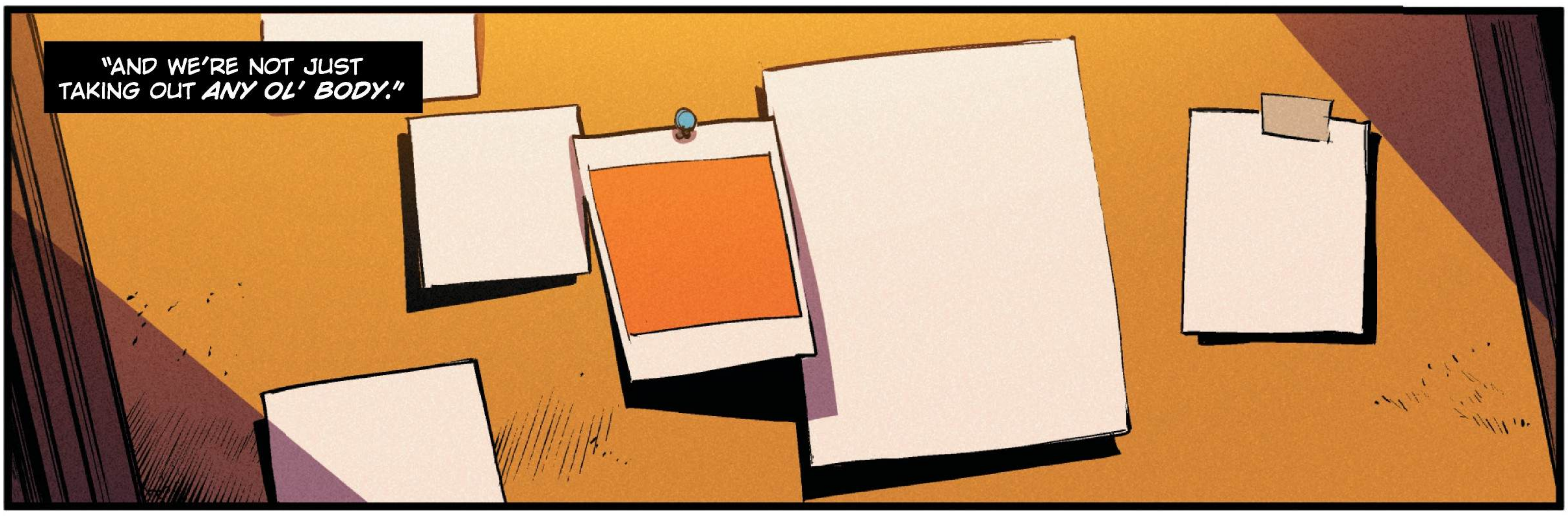
THE YOUNG KING OFFICER SANTIAGO *EXECUTED* HAD A NAME. *ISAIAH SAINTIL.*
WHEN HE ARRIVED ON OUR SHORES FROM *HAITI* AT THE AGE OF *10*, HE SPOKE NO ENGLISH.
HE WAS FLUENT BY *12*.
ISAIAH EXCELLED IN MATH AND *ROBOTICS*, BUT IT WAS *COMMUNITY SERVICE* WHERE HE TRULY *DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF*.
HE STARTED AND RAN A *NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION* THAT GAVE LEFTOVER FOOD FROM RESTAURANTS TO HOMELESS FAMILIES.
IS THERE ANY WONDER WHY *EVERY IVY LEAGUE SCHOOL* ACCEPTED HIM EARLY?
Penn
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Isaiah Saintil
Yale University
AND NOW HE'S *DEAD*. SLAUGHTERED FOR THE CRIME OF *BREATHING WHILE BLACK* IN AMERICA.

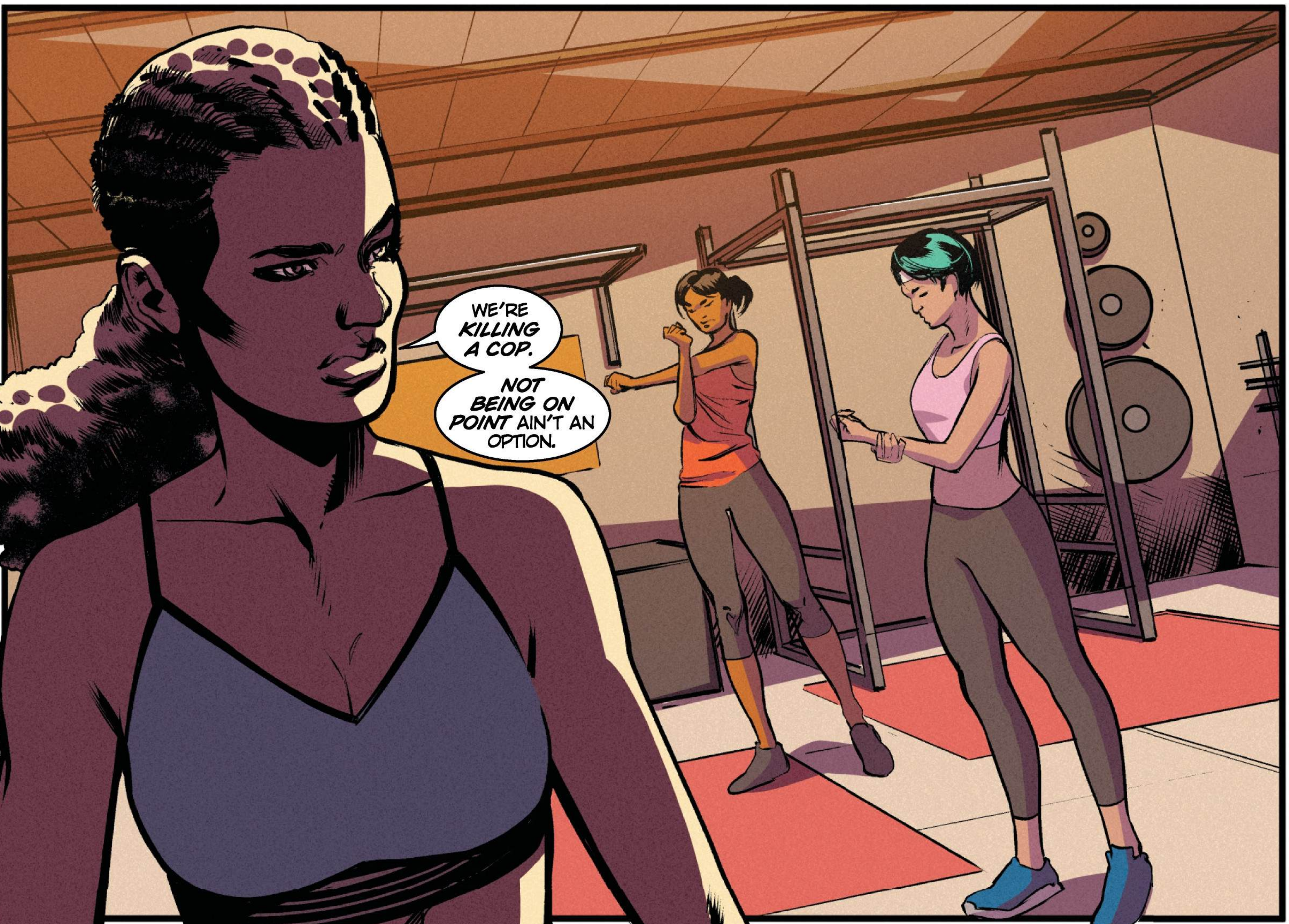
JUST KNOW IF I EVER COME *FACE TO FACE* WITH *SANTIAGO* IT'S ON SIGHT.
I'M *CANCELING* THAT *MOTHERFUCKER,* AND THAT'S JUST GOING TO BE ALL THERE IS TO IT.
WE ALWAYS *SAY THIS SHIT* WHENEVER THIS HAPPENS, BUT I'M JUST SAYING --WHAT'S STOPPING US FROM *REALLY DOING IT?* DUDE OBVIOUSLY IS UNWORTHY OF LIFE, SO LET'S DO THE REAPER *A SOLID* AND HANDLE THIS ONE OURSELVES?
AND *THAT'S* HOW IT HAPPENED.
THAT'S HOW *EASY* IT WAS FOR THREE *PROFESSIONAL* YOUNG WOMEN TO MAKE THE LIFE-ALTERING DECISION TO BECOME *KILLERS.*
I'M WITH IT. YEAH. SURE. SURE. *WHY NOT?*
BUT *IF* WE DO IT, WE HAVE TO DO IT *RIGHT.*
WE CAN'T JUST WAKE UP TOMORROW AND START *CATCHING BODIES.*
WE *NEED* A STRATEGY.

I'M WAY TOO EMOTIONAL RIGHT NOW TO PLAY *MAKE BELIEVE.*
WHO'S *PLAYING,* BABY GIRL? STORY TIME, KIDDIES. *SIT UP.*
I RAN INTO ONE OF MY OLD MED-SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS I USED TO *SMASH ON THE SIDE--*
YOU MEAN YOUR *EX-SUGAR DADDY?*
HIM!
WE GET TO CATCHING UP, *DA-DA-DA-DA-DA,* AND ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS THE CRAZY PILLOW TALK WE USED TO HAVE.
"JUST *INSANE, UNSPEAKABLE* ADMISSIONS. I REMEMBER THIS ONE TIME, HE WAS LIKE:
SOMETIMES, I LET PATIENTS *DIE.*
IT'S A KIND OF *TOXIC RUSH* HAVING THAT KIND OF DOMAIN OVER ANOTHER PERSON'S *CONTINUED* EXISTENCE.
"SO ONE DAY, THE *MOTHERFUCKER* ACTUALLY BRINGS ME IN ON THE *HIJINKS* HE SPEAKS OF. AND...AND THERE WAS THIS GUY...THIS *PATIENT*... THIS FUCKING GUY--THIS *DYING MAN.* I'LL *NEVER* FORGET HIS FACE.
"WE LET HIM GO. WE LET HIM *DIE.* DIDN'T DO A THING TO STOP IT...
"WE *LET HIM GO.*
"HE WAS LIVING AND BREATHING RIGHT THERE IN FRONT OF ME... AND THEN...THEN *HE WASN'T.*
"WE LET HIM GO."
ALL ALARMS MUTED F
Temp
95.7 F

CRAZIEST THING IS FROM MY MOUTH TO *GOD'S EARS*...I FELT *NOTHING*.
WE GOT *CHIPOTLE* AFTER.
HARD DISAGREE.
EVERYBODY I *EVER* PUT DOWN--*I FELT THAT SHIT*.
I CARRY THAT *DEAD WEIGHT*.
WAIT, YOU BITCHES *ARE SERIOUS*?
WHY *WOULDN'T* WE BE?
AREN'T *YOU*?
CALL IT PEER PRESSURE. CALL IT BLUSTER. CALL IT *MORBID CURIOSITY*. CALL IT A DESIRE TO SEE JUST HOW FAR WE WOULD TAKE IT. BUT--
NOT ONLY AM I *IN*, BUT A BITCH IS *RIDING SHOTGUN*.


"*KILLING A MAN* IS ONE THING. GETTING AWAY WITH IT IS *ANOTHER*.

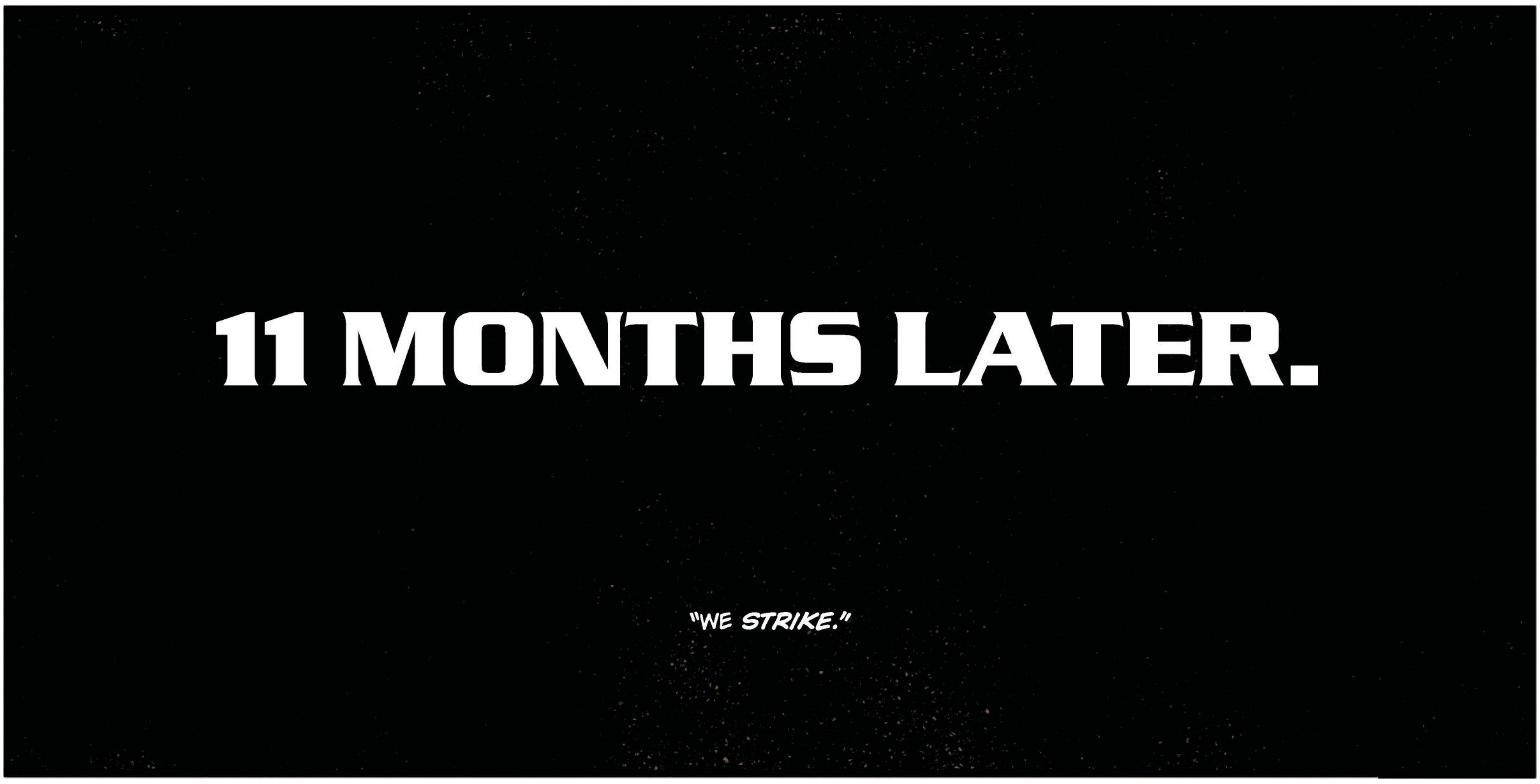

"AND WE'RE NOT JUST TAKING OUT *ANY OL' BODY*."

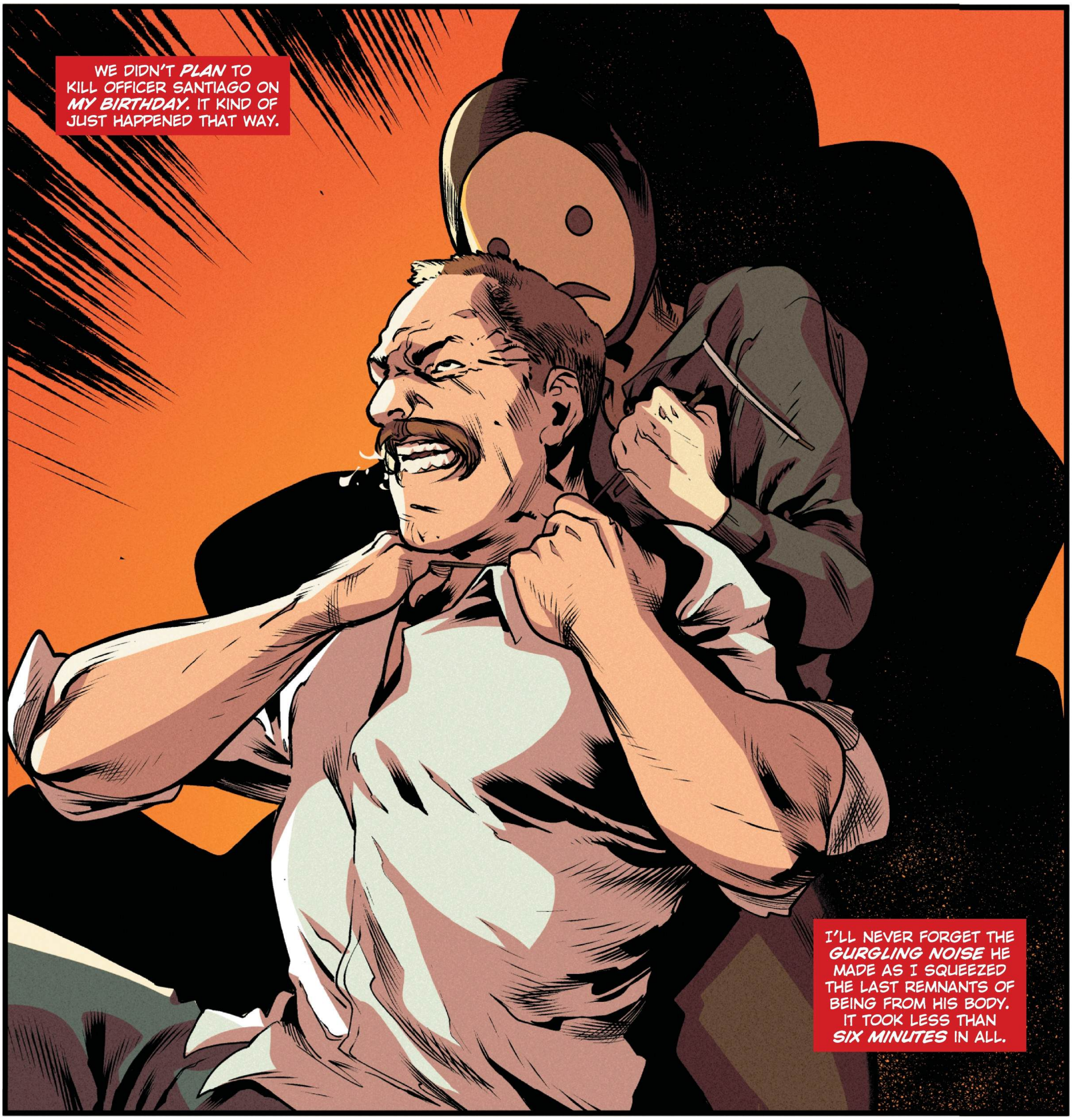

WE'RE *KILLING A COP*.
NOT BEING ON POINT AIN'T AN OPTION.

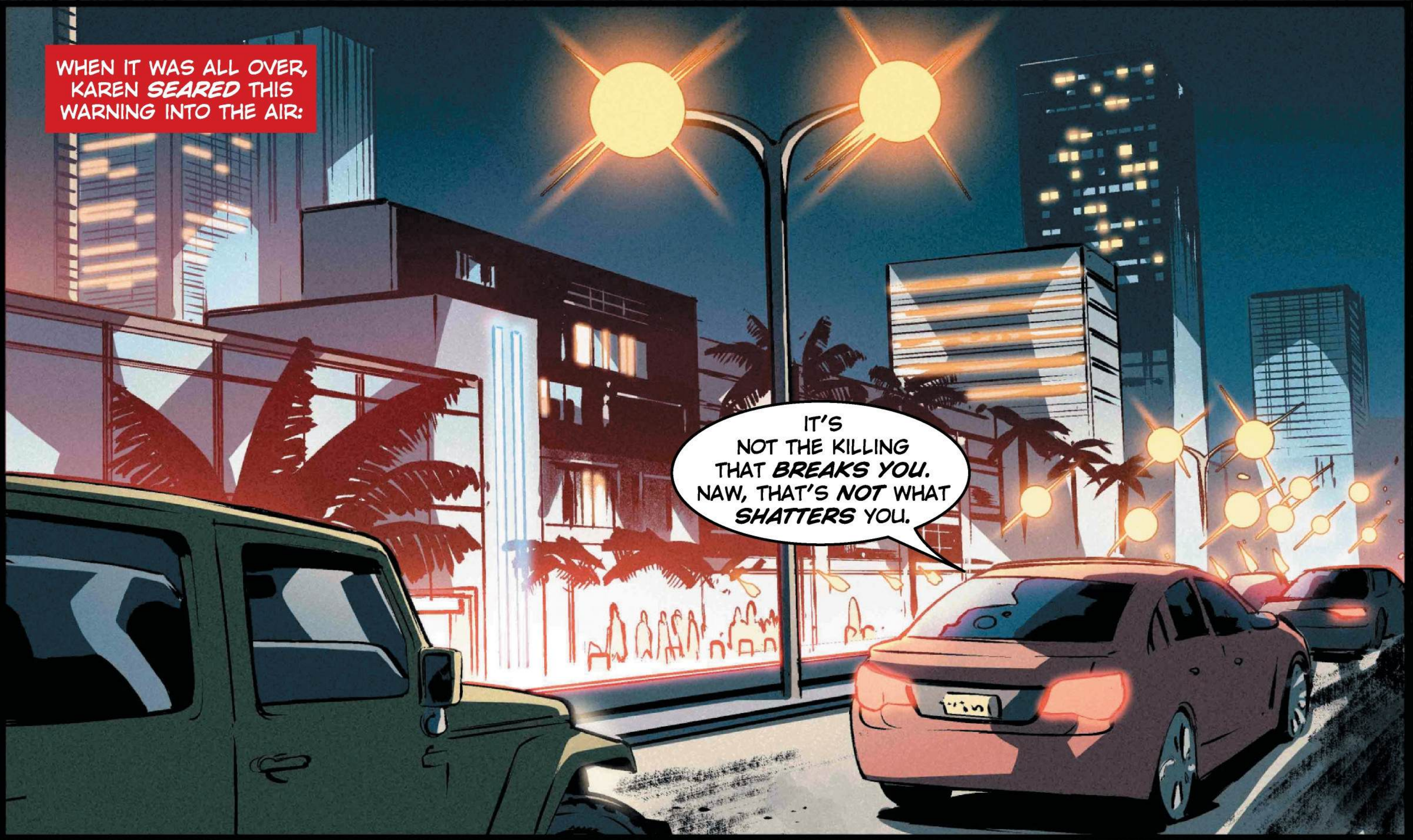
"WE'RE GONNA *TRAIN*.
"WE'RE GONNA *LEARN*.
"WE'RE GONNA *TRANSFORM*.
"WE'RE GONNA BE *PERFECT*.
"WE'RE GONNA *EVOLVE*."

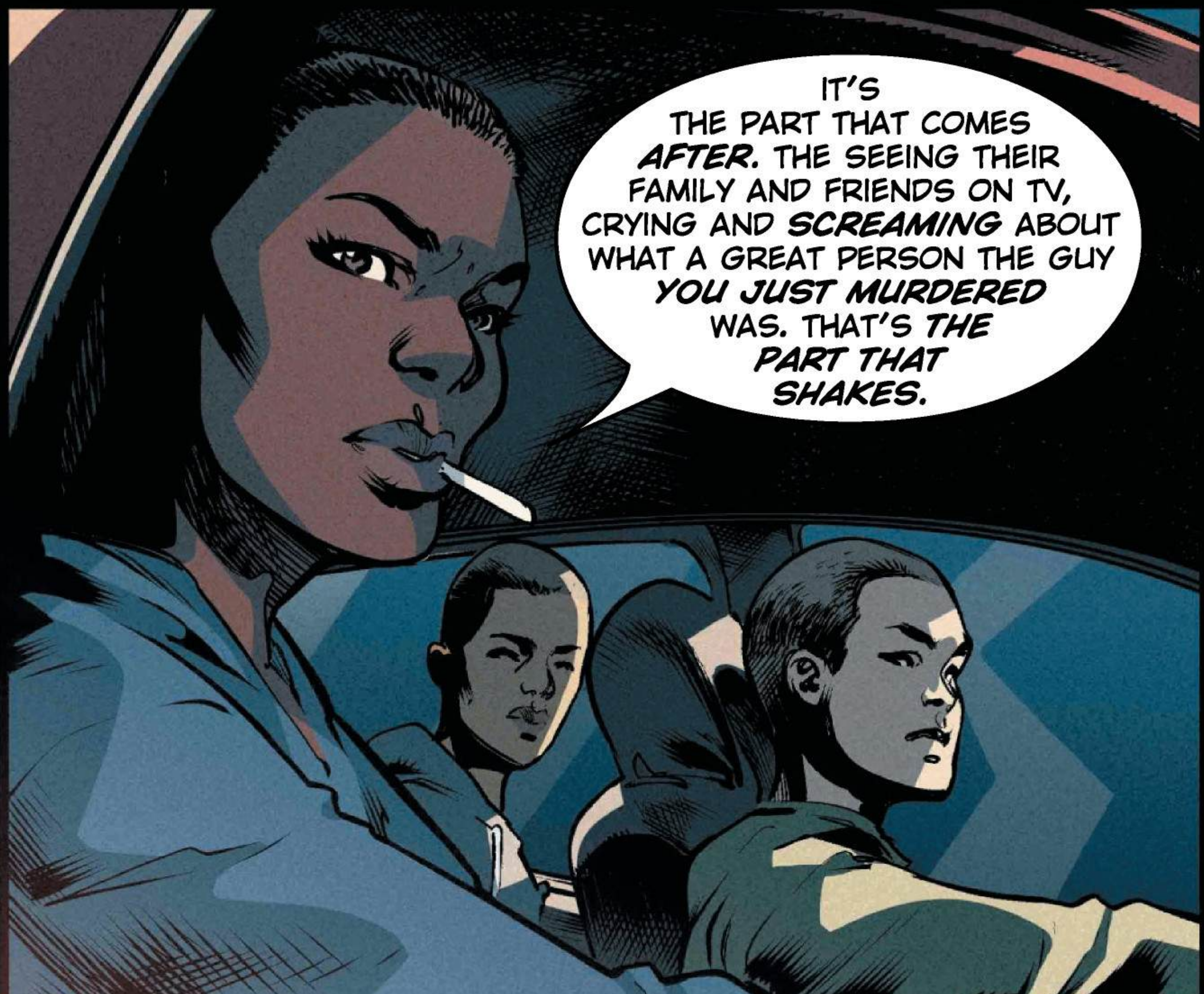
"WE'RE GONNA *PUSH*.
"WE'RE GONNA *REMEMBER*.
"WE'RE GONNA WANT TO *FORGET*.
"WE'RE GONNA *BLEED*.
"WE'RE GONNA *HURT*."

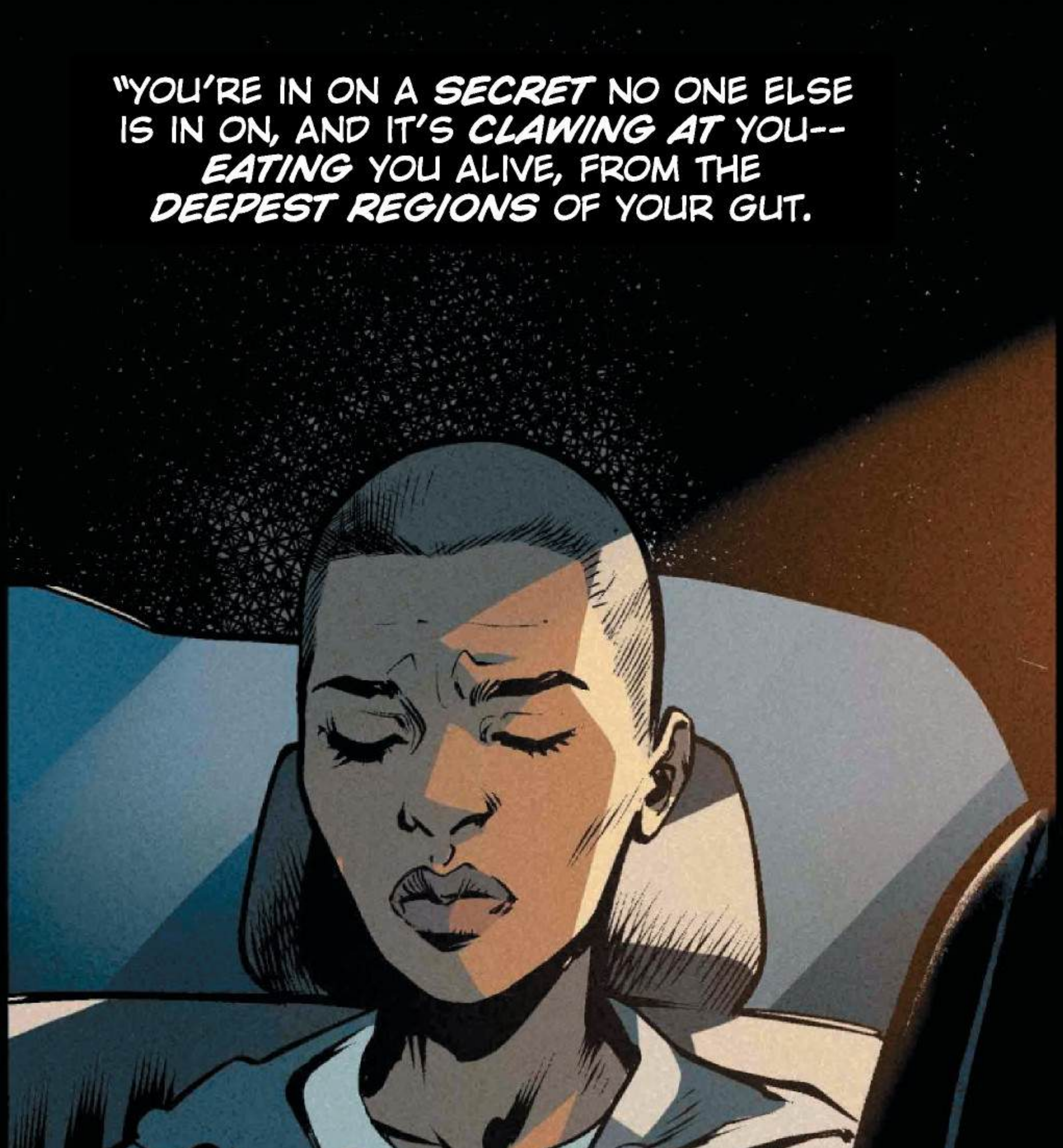
"WE'RE GONNA *HARDEN*.
"WE'RE GONNA *FALL*.
"WE'RE GONNA *RISE*.
"WE'RE GONNA TAKE OUR TIME AND WAIT FOR OUR *MOMENT*.
"AND WHEN THAT MOMENT COMES--"

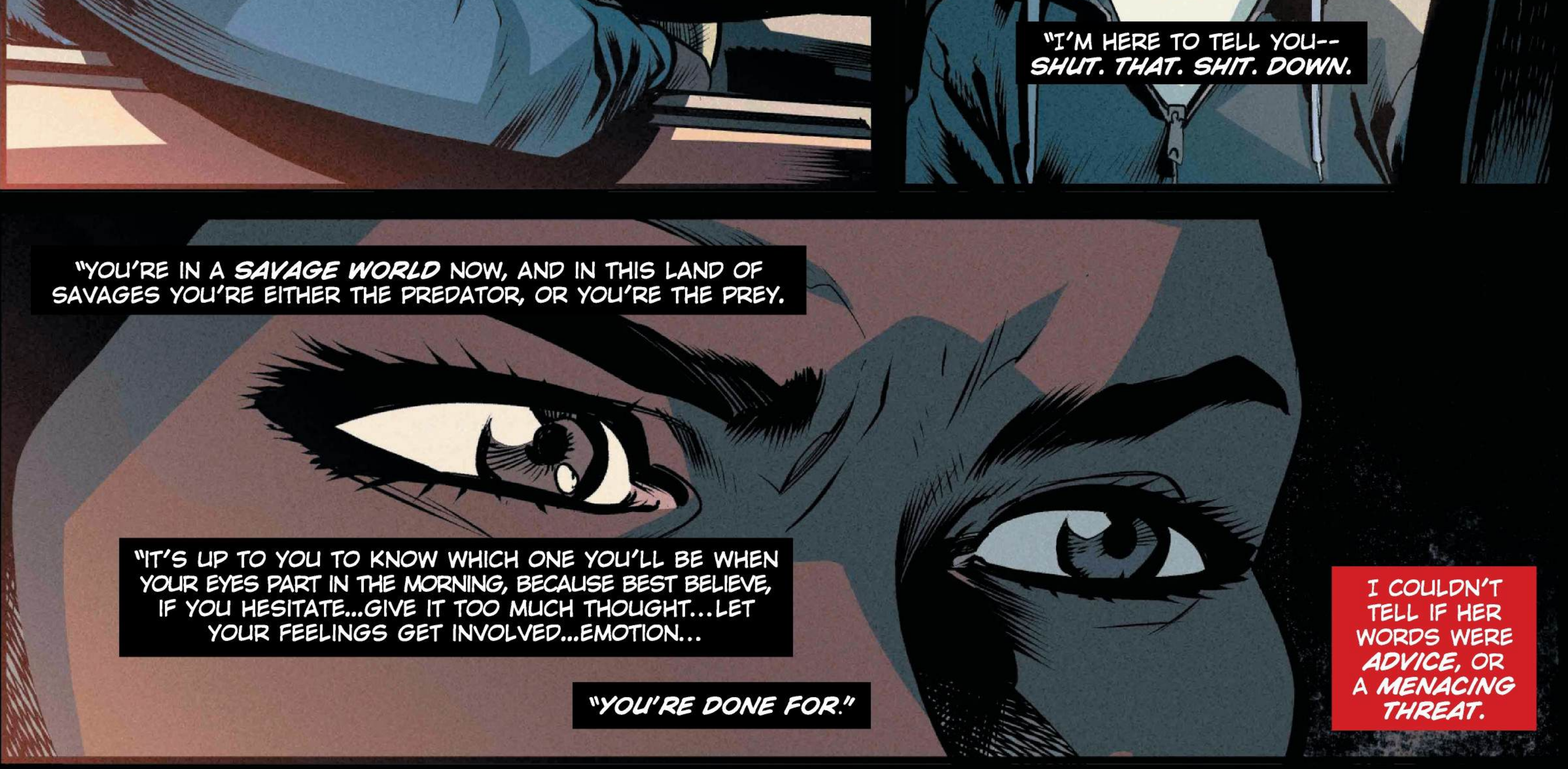

11 MONTHS LATER.
"WE *STRIKE*."


WE DIDN'T *PLAN* TO KILL OFFICER SANTIAGO ON *MY BIRTHDAY*. IT KIND OF JUST HAPPENED THAT WAY.
I'LL NEVER FORGET THE *GURGLING NOISE* HE MADE AS I SQUEEZED THE LAST REMNANTS OF BEING FROM HIS BODY. IT TOOK LESS THAN *SIX MINUTES* IN ALL.


WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER, KAREN *SEARED* THIS WARNING INTO THE AIR:
IT'S NOT THE KILLING THAT ***BREAKS YOU.*** NAW, THAT'S ***NOT*** WHAT ***SHATTERS*** YOU.


IT'S THE PART THAT COMES ***AFTER.*** THE SEEING THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS ON TV, CRYING AND ***SCREAMING*** ABOUT WHAT A GREAT PERSON THE GUY ***YOU JUST MURDERED*** WAS. THAT'S ***THE PART THAT SHAKES.***


"YOU'RE IN ON A ***SECRET*** NO ONE ELSE IS IN ON, AND IT'S ***CLAWING AT*** YOU-- ***EATING*** YOU ALIVE, FROM THE ***DEEPEST REGIONS*** OF YOUR GUT.
"I'M HERE TO TELL YOU-- ***SHUT. THAT. SHIT. DOWN.***


"YOU'RE IN A ***SAVAGE WORLD*** NOW, AND IN THIS LAND OF SAVAGES YOU'RE EITHER THE PREDATOR, OR YOU'RE THE PREY.
"IT'S UP TO YOU TO KNOW WHICH ONE YOU'LL BE WHEN YOUR EYES PART IN THE MORNING, BECAUSE BEST BELIEVE, IF YOU HESITATE...GIVE IT TOO MUCH THOUGHT...LET YOUR FEELINGS GET INVOLVED...EMOTION...
"YOU'RE DONE FOR."
I COULDN'T TELL IF HER WORDS WERE ***ADVICE,*** OR A ***MENACING THREAT.***

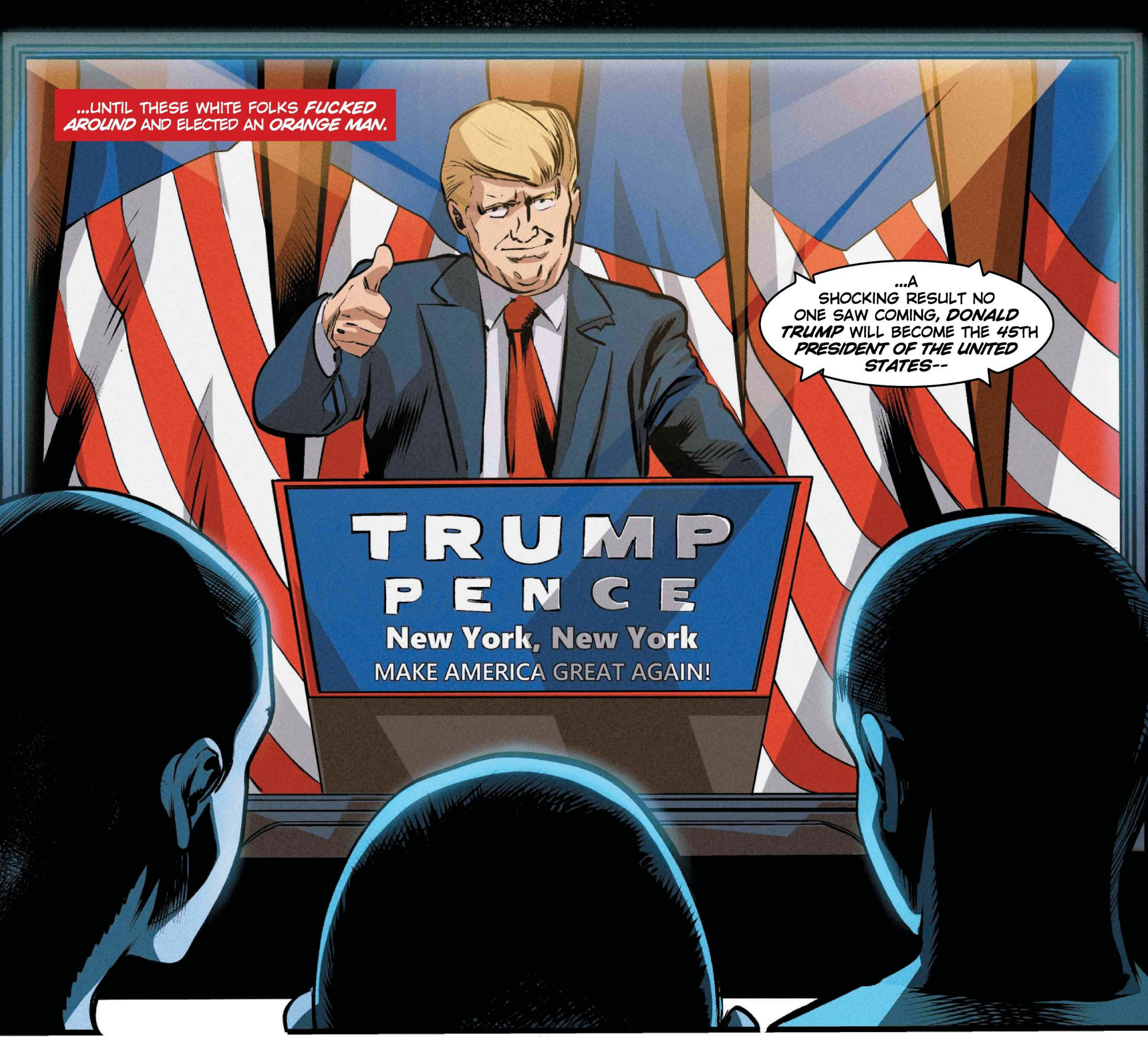
A *PARALYZING NUMBNESS* EMBRACED MY BONES. I THOUGHT I'D *FEEL SATISFACTION* AFTER *KILLING OFFICER SANTIAGO*...
...BUT THE ONLY THING I FELT WAS A *VOID*.
A DULL, LIFELESS HOLE *ENVELOPING ME*.
THE *FUCKED UP* THING ABOUT IT ALL?
I *LIKED* THE EMPTINESS.
IT *DROVE ME*.
IT *ELEVATED ME*.

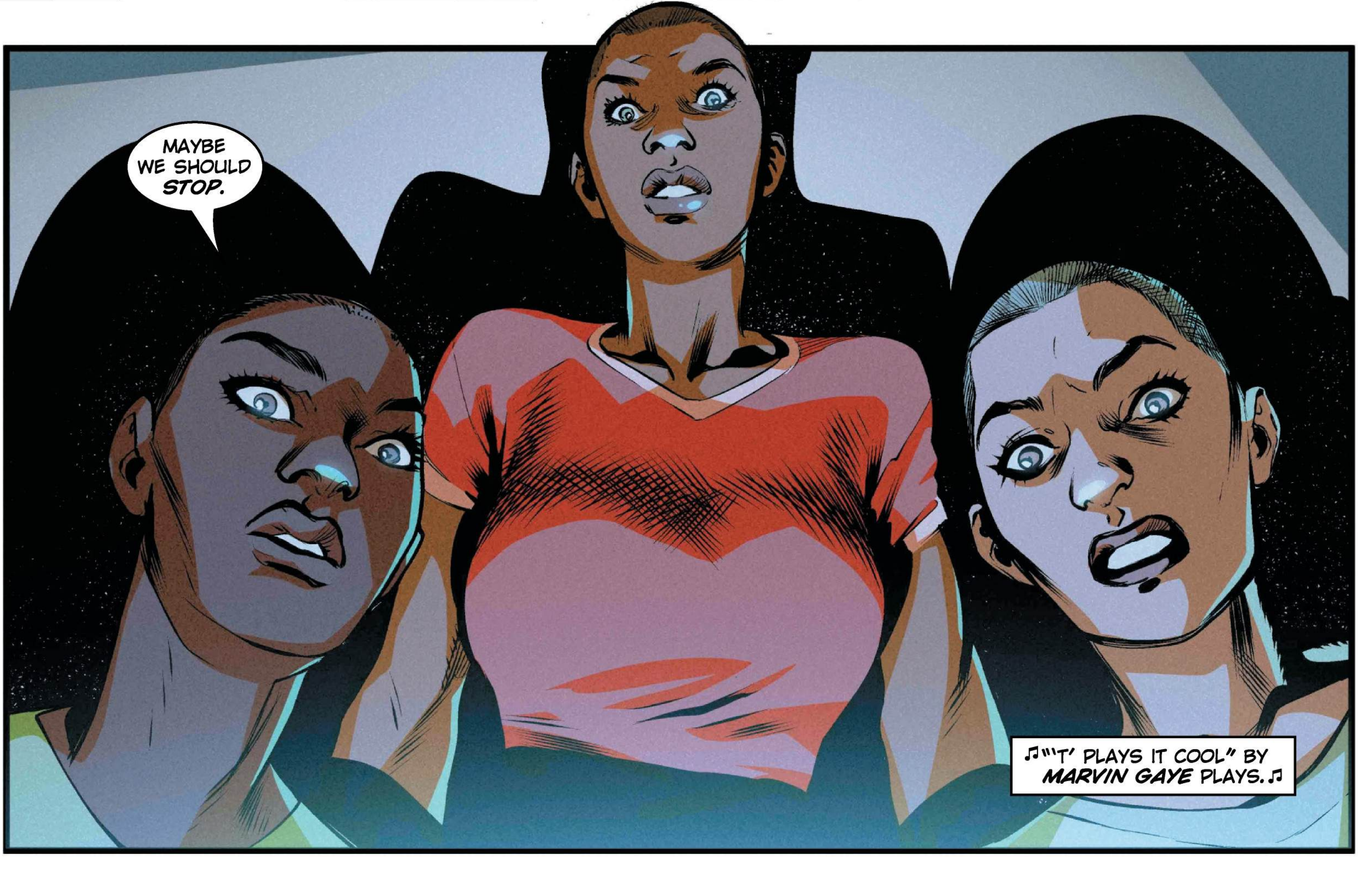
BY WEEK'S END, I HAD COMPILED A LIST OF 30 NEW TARGETS FOR US TO HIT.
--NOT JUST COPS EITHER. IF WE'RE GOING TO SLAY THIS BEAST WE HAVE TO GO AFTER THE HEART OF THE MACHINE KEEPING THIS BITCH FED.
"LAWYERS.
"JUDGES.
"LOBBYISTS."
THEY'RE IN IT TOGETHER.
THEY'LL BURN TOGETHER.

WITH SO MANY NAMES ON OUR *EXECUTION DOCKET*, WE WOULD'VE BEEN LIMITED IF WE ONLY KILLED ON OUR BIRTHDAYS. SO WE USED OTHERS' INSTEAD.
FEBRUARY 14TH. FREDERICK DOUGLASS.
JULY 25TH. EMMETT TILL.
AUGUST 17TH. MARCUS GARVEY.

DECEMBER 25TH. GEORGE LEE.
SEPTEMBER 19TH.
LT. COLONEL LEMUEL PENN.
MARCH 10TH.
VERNON DAHMER.
NOVEMBER 12TH.
ALBERTA ODELL JONES.

OUR BLOODLUST WAS INSATIABLE. THE *KILLINGS* GAVE US *LIFE*.
KAREN HAD *RANDOM SEX* AFTER EVERY MURDER.
DEIDRE WOULD CELEBRATE BY GOING ON A *MEGA SHOPPING SPREE* AT *GUCCI*.
ME? I'D GET DRESSED IN MY *BAD BITCH LOOK* AND ORDER THE *MOST EXPENSIVE, OVERPRICED* BOTTLE OF WATERED DOWN BUBBLY AT THE *CAUCASIAN STRIP CLUB*.
WE REARRANGED OUR LIVES AROUND WHO OUR *NEXT TARGET WAS*.
IT'S ALL WE TALKED ABOUT. THOUGHT ABOUT. LIVED ABOUT...


...UNTIL THESE WHITE FOLKS *FUCKED AROUND* AND ELECTED AN *ORANGE MAN.*
...A SHOCKING RESULT NO ONE SAW COMING, *DONALD TRUMP* WILL BECOME THE 45TH *PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES--*
TRUMP PENCE
New York, New York
MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!


MAYBE WE SHOULD *STOP.*
♫"'T' PLAYS IT COOL" BY *MARVIN GAYE* PLAYS.♫

"If you are silent about your pain,
they'll kill you and say you enjoyed it."
— ZORA NEALE HURSTON

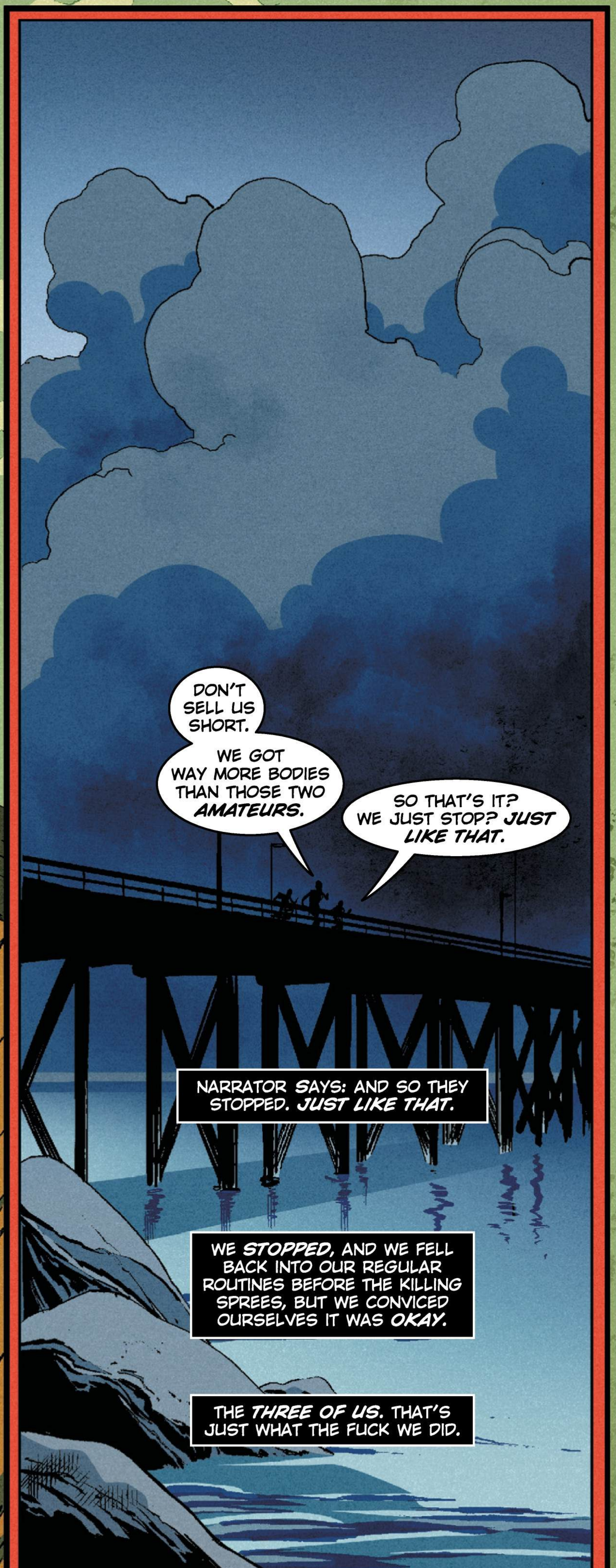
Chapter 02

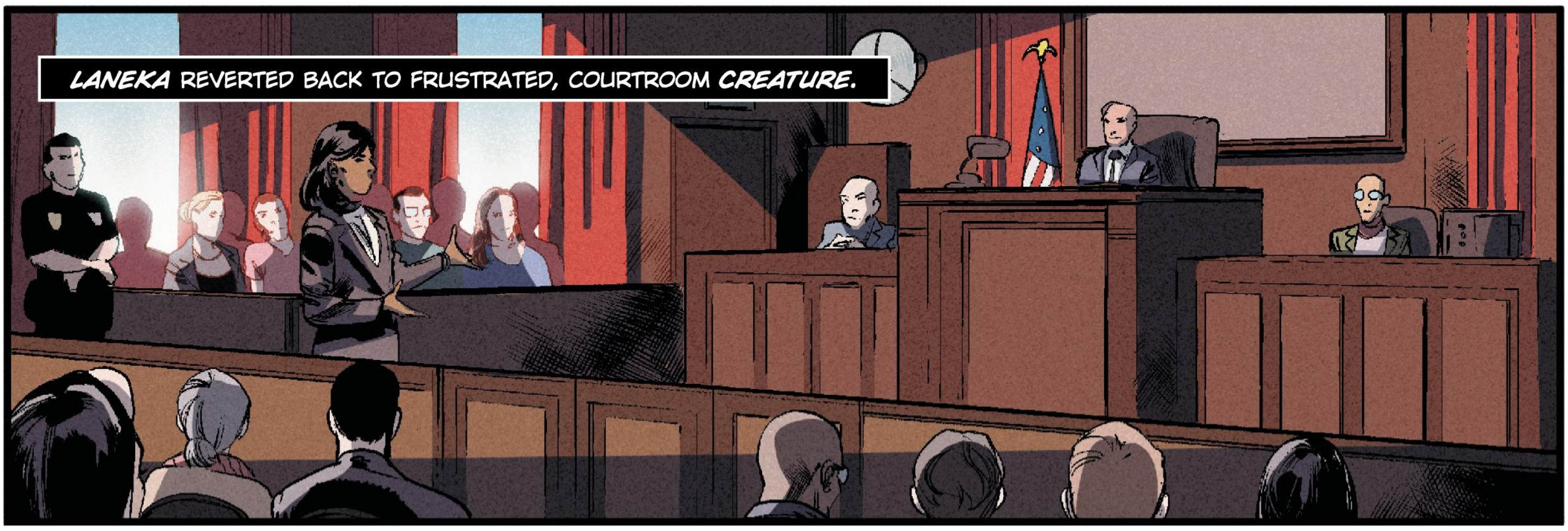
CONTRARY TO WHAT YOU MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE *FEDS*, THEM GUYS AND GALS ARE GODDAMN TREMENDOUS AT WHAT THEY DO. MOTHERFUCKING EXCEPTIONAL.
THEY WERE ONTO OUR SEXY, SEDUCTIVE SCENT *WAY EARLIER THAN EXPECTED.*
FBI
BI
MIND YOU, THEY DIDN'T KNOW OUR *EXACT IDENTITIES*, HOME ADDRESSES, BLOOD TYPE, OR WHAT FINGER WE LIKED TO CIRCLE ONE OUT WITH. NOTHING *SPECIFIC* LIKE THAT.
FBI
EVIDENC
RESPO
TE
BUT THEY KNEW *ENOUGH* TO KNOW ABOUT OUR *MODUS OPERANDI* TO BUILD A SOLID PROFILE ABOUT WHO WE WERE AND *WHO WE WERE SLAYING.*
2
THIS KAREN TALKING BY THE WAY. THE DARK SKIN ONE. YES. THE COP. HEEYYYY. I'M ON THE NARRATOR MIC FOR *THIS ISSUE.* SO ALIGN THAT SPINE, EYES AHEAD, AND SCRIBBLE SOME NOTES. YOU NEVER KNOW: THERE JUST MAY BE A QUIZ AT THE END!

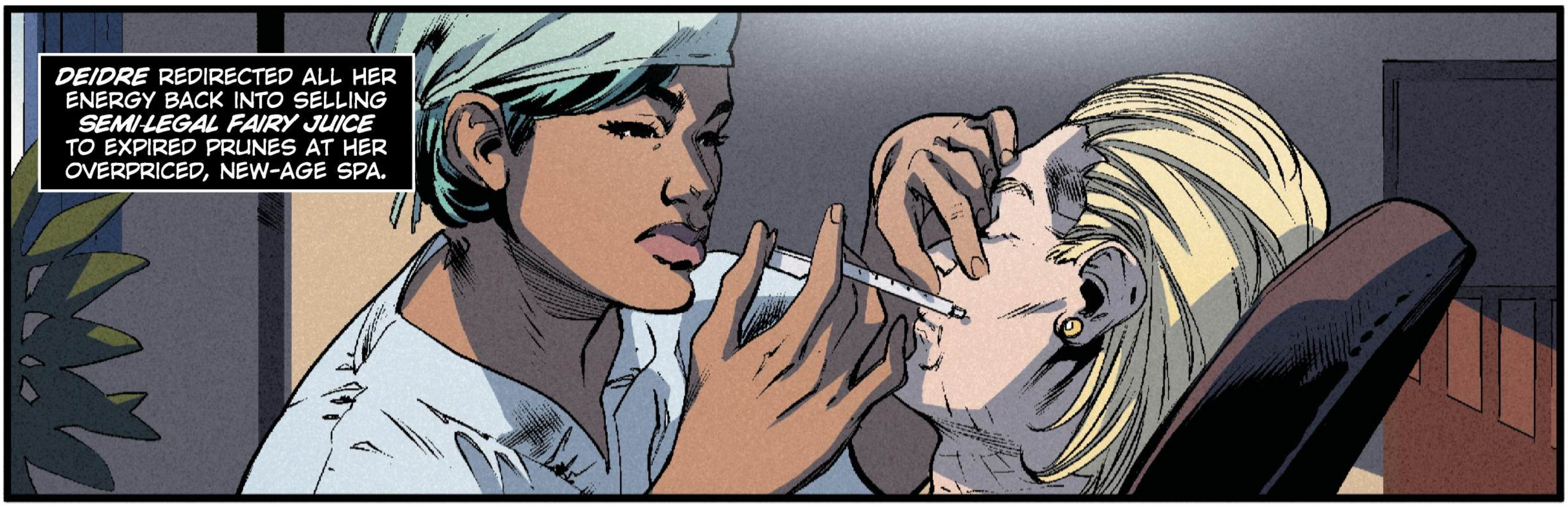
SO *YEAH,* IT WAS NO BIG, DEEP-STATE SECRET THAT THERE WERE SOME *WILD VIGILANTES* OUT THERE IN THESE COLD-BLOODED STREETS. CARRYING OUT BOLD EXECUTIONS OF SUN FOES LINKED TO *BLACK INJUSTICE.*
HERE'S THE *WEIRD, TWISTY PART* YOU DIDN'T SEE COMING--
--THE *DOJ* AND *FBI* WERE *SECRET ADMIRERS* OF OUR *WORK.* THEY *LOVED* WHAT WE WERE DOING AND EVERYTHING ABOUT IT. THEY WERE *CRUSHING* HARD.
NO, FOR REAL FOR REAL. THEY WERE RECTUM DEEP IN LURVE, CLEARLY BECAUSE THEY HAD ENOUGH *OF EMPATHY* AND *CAPACITY FOR COMPASSION* TO KNOW THE WASTES OF SPERM WE WERE EXCISING WERE *CHROMOSOME-DEFICIENT, RACIST PROFITEERS* UNWORTHY OF CONTINUED EXISTENCE IN THIS REALM.
THEY WERE *UNDESIRABLE, CUT* PIECES OF SHIT OVERDUE FOR A *FLUSHING.*
WHICH IS *EXACTLY* WHY THE *FEDS* SLOW-PLAYED THE INVESTIGATION INTO *OUR MURDERS.*
CRAZY SHIT, RIGHT? *CAN'T MAKE IT UP.*
BUT YOU MUST REMEMBER IT WAS A DIFFERENT TIME WHEN WE FIRST STARTED THESE *MURDER SHENANIGANS. DIFFERENT PRESIDENT. DIFFERENT ATTORNEY GENERAL. DIFFERENT COUNTRY.*
AND MAYBE THAT'S WHY THE *ORANGE MAN* GOT ELECTED.

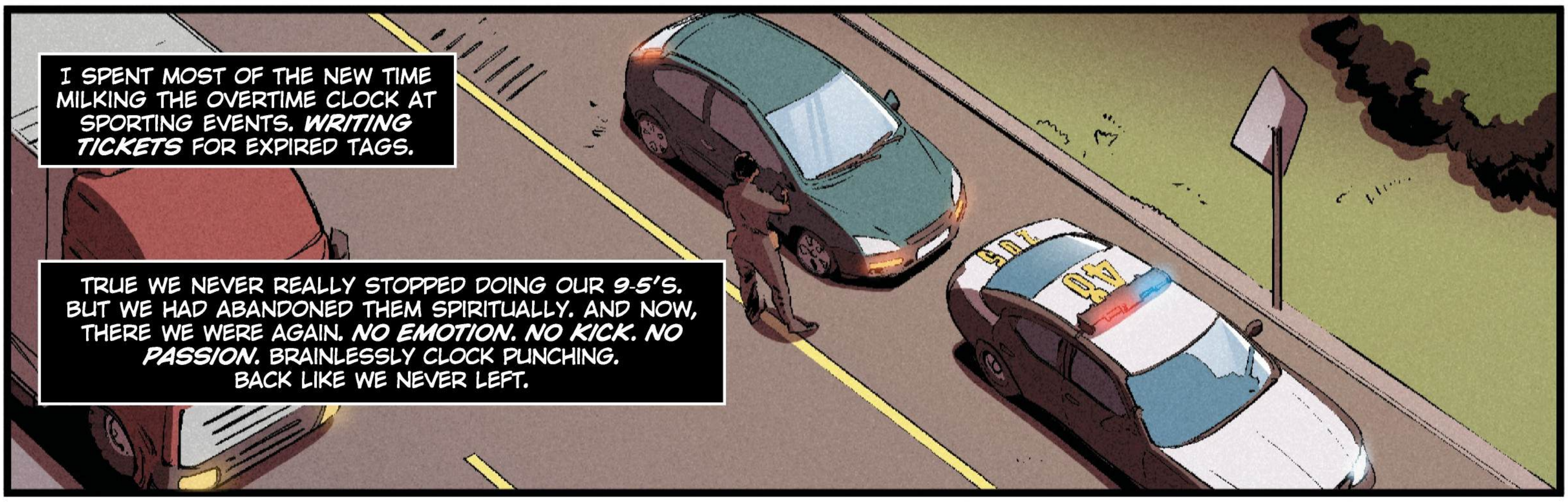
HAVE Y'ALL SEEN WHO THIS ***RUSSIAN ASSET*** IS TALKING ABOUT BRINGING IN AS HIS ***AG?***
JEFF MUTHAFUCKIN' SESSIONS.
HELL TO THE NAW.
EVEN ***IF*** WE STOP, WHO'S TO SAY THEY WON'T LOOK BACK AT WHAT WE ALREADY DID WITH A FRESH SET OF ***WHITE NATIONALIST EYES?***
WOULDN'T THAT BE SO CONVENIENT FOR THEIR MESSAGING. THEY NEED A BLACK FACE SO BAD TO FRONT THIS ***AMERICAN CARNAGE BULLSHIT*** THEY'RE PERPETRATING. THEY NOT EVEN TRYING TO HIDE IT.

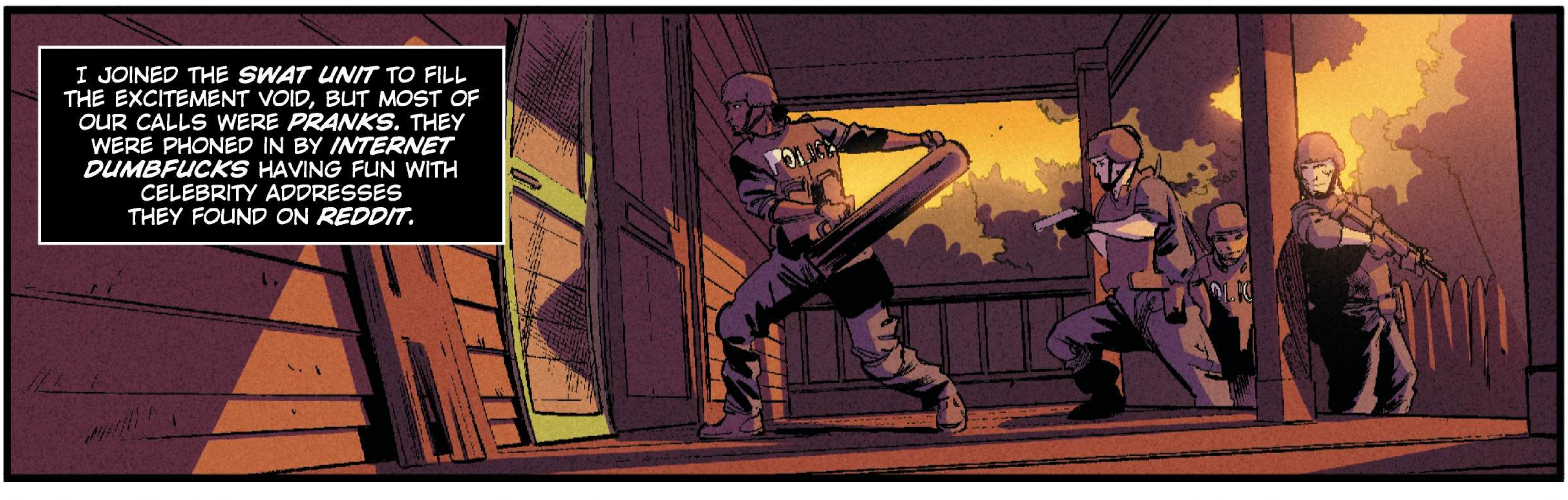
"THE *UPPITY* COLORED FOLKS FORGETTING THEIR PLACE, RUNNING AMOK, AND *VICTIMIZING THE PURE WHITE WIMMINS.*" SHIIIID, *HELEN KELLER* COULD SEE IT COMING.
TANGENT: DID YOU KNOW THAT *BITCH* WAS A *PROPONENT OF EUGENICS?* G-SHIT. *FACT CHECK ME.*
MAGA WILL HOLD A *LOTTO* TO SEE WHO GIVES US THE NEEDLE--
--THEY GONNA TURN US INTO THE *D.C. SNIPER 2.0.*

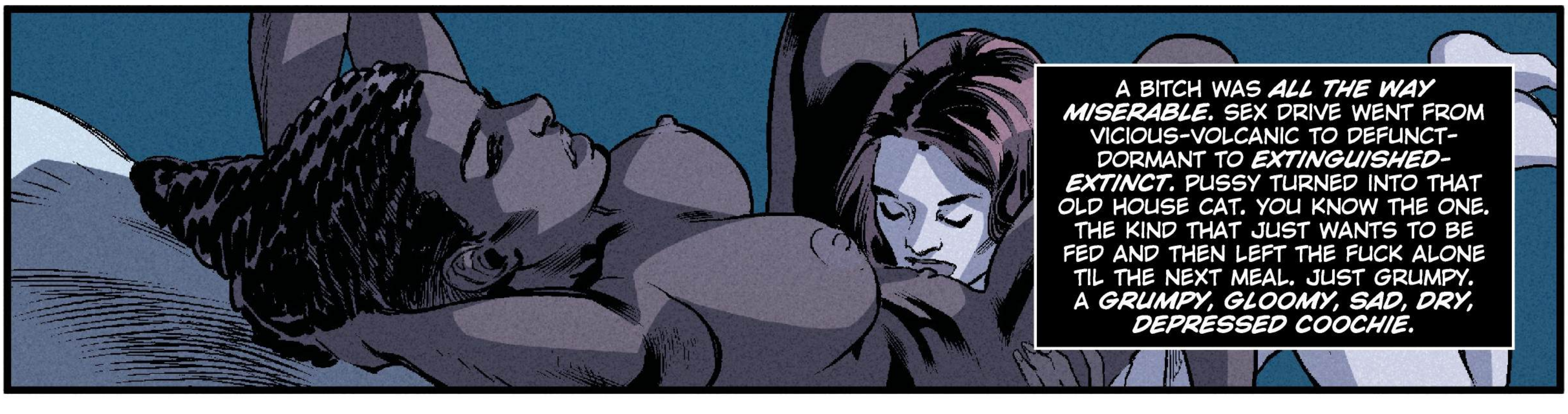

DON'T SELL US SHORT.
WE GOT WAY MORE BODIES THAN THOSE TWO *AMATEURS.*
SO THAT'S IT? WE JUST STOP? *JUST LIKE THAT.*
NARRATOR SAYS: AND SO THEY STOPPED. *JUST LIKE THAT.*
WE *STOPPED,* AND WE FELL BACK INTO OUR REGULAR ROUTINES BEFORE THE KILLING SPREES, BUT WE CONVICED OURSELVES IT WAS *OKAY.*
THE *THREE OF US.* THAT'S JUST WHAT THE FUCK WE DID.

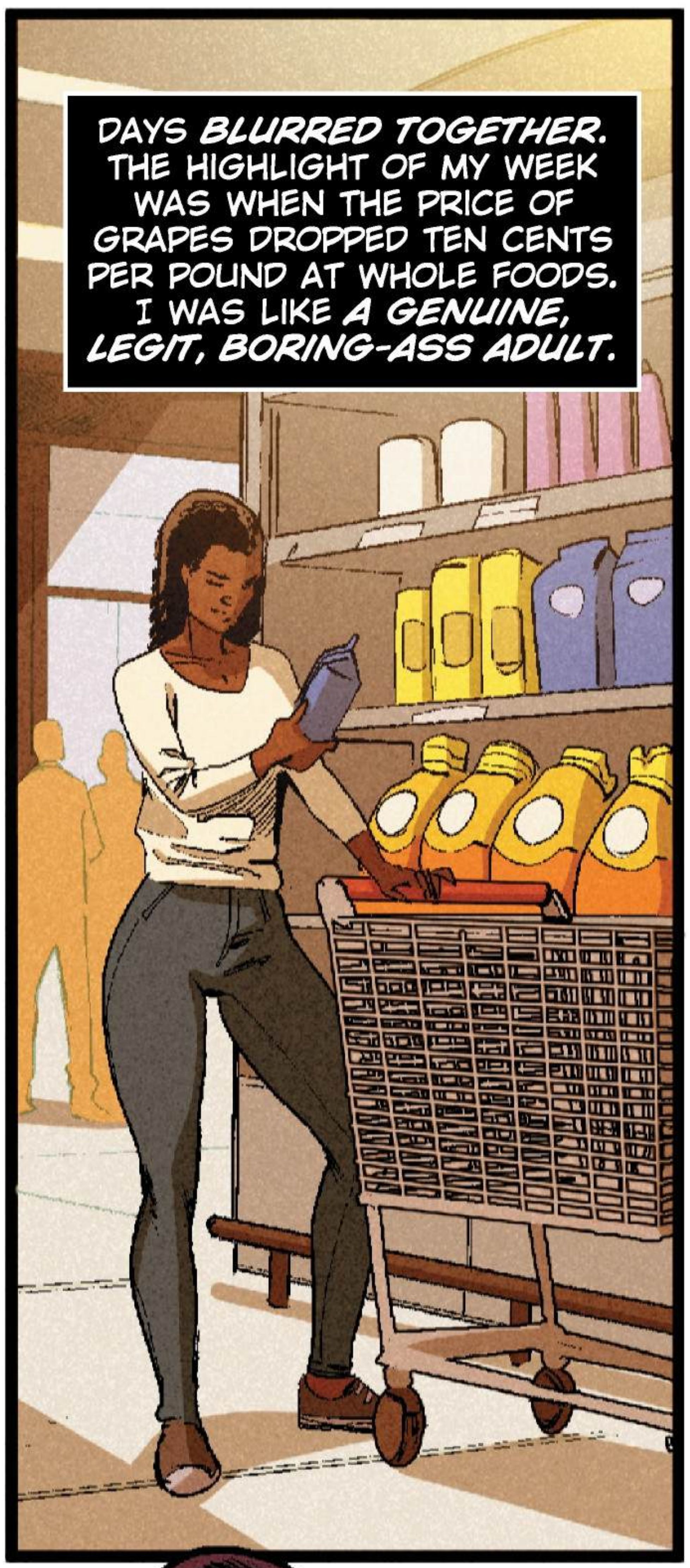

LANEKA REVERTED BACK TO FRUSTRATED, COURTROOM CREATURE.

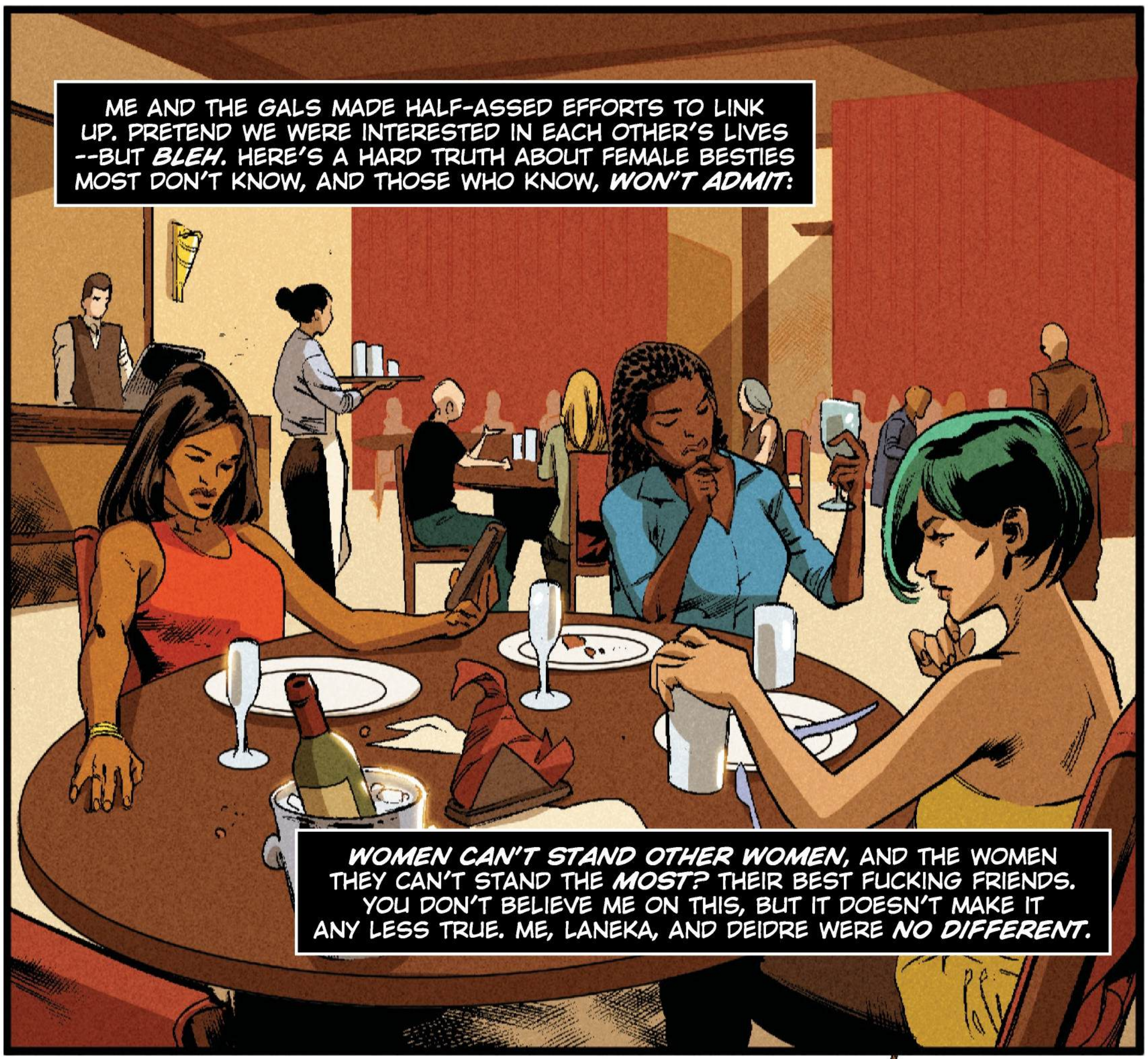

DEIDRE REDIRECTED ALL HER ENERGY BACK INTO SELLING SEMI-LEGAL FAIRY JUICE TO EXPIRED PRUNES AT HER OVERPRICED, NEW-AGE SPA.

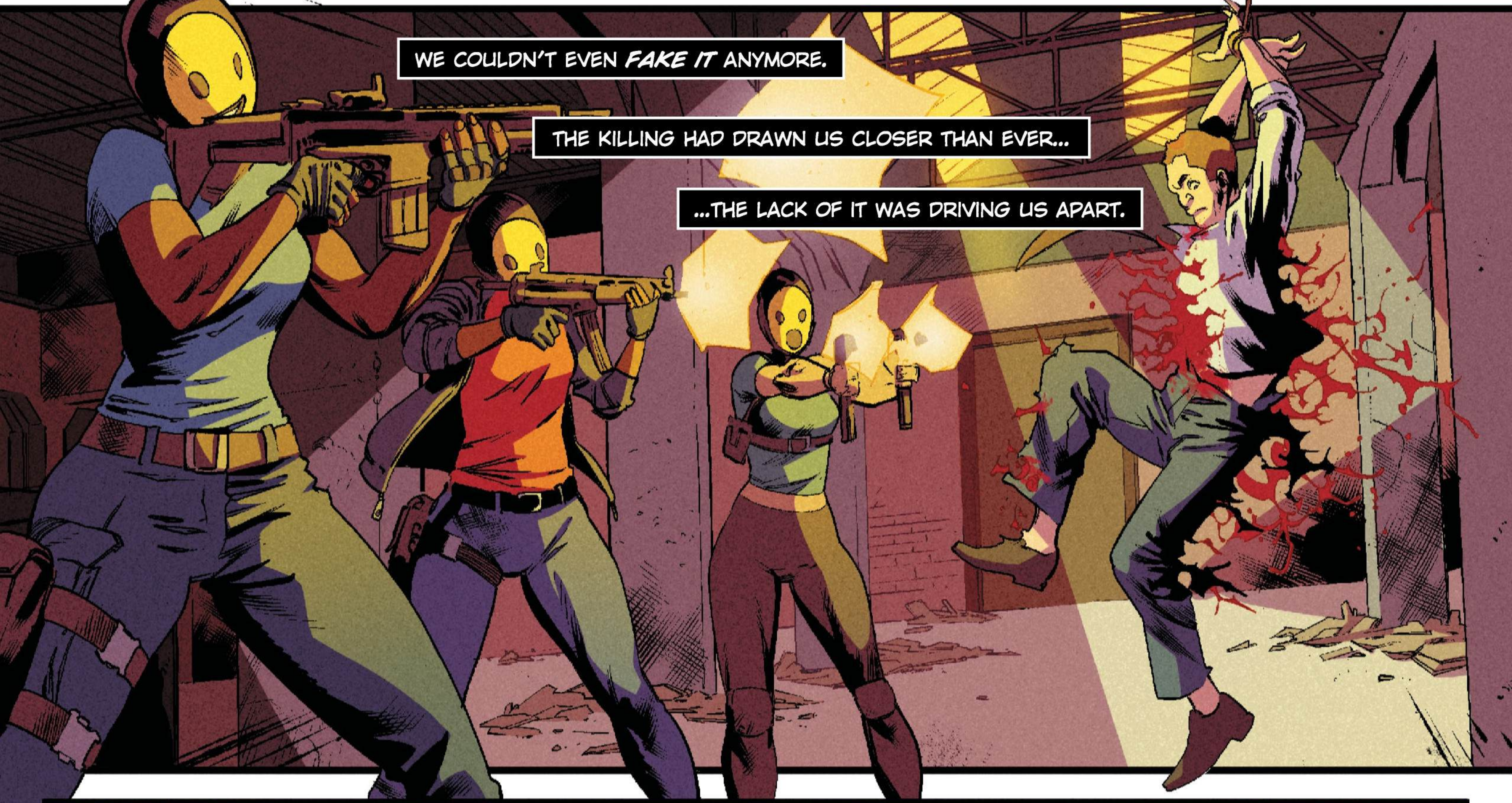

I SPENT MOST OF THE NEW TIME MILKING THE OVERTIME CLOCK AT SPORTING EVENTS. WRITING TICKETS FOR EXPIRED TAGS.
TRUE WE NEVER REALLY STOPPED DOING OUR 9-5'S. BUT WE HAD ABANDONED THEM SPIRITUALLY. AND NOW, THERE WE WERE AGAIN. NO EMOTION. NO KICK. NO PASSION. BRAINLESSLY CLOCK PUNCHING. BACK LIKE WE NEVER LEFT.

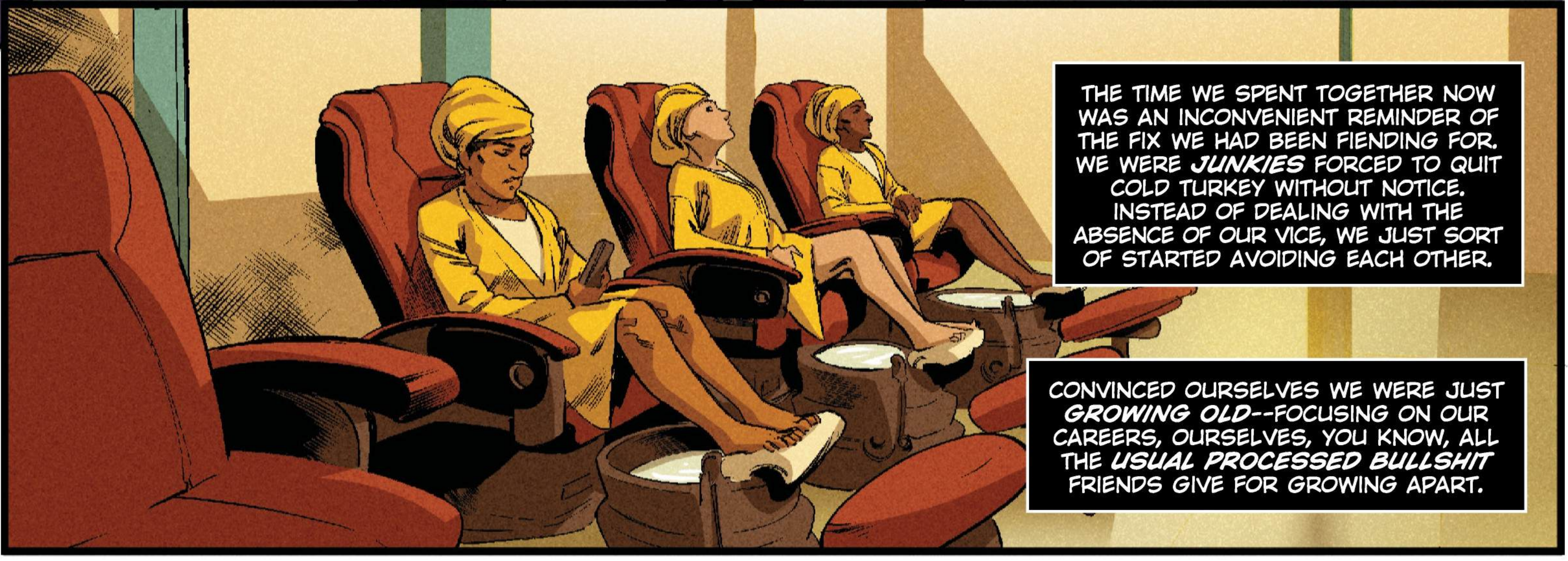

I JOINED THE SWAT UNIT TO FILL THE EXCITEMENT VOID, BUT MOST OF OUR CALLS WERE PRANKS. THEY WERE PHONED IN BY INTERNET DUMBFUCKS HAVING FUN WITH CELEBRITY ADDRESSES THEY FOUND ON REDDIT.
POLICE


A BITCH WAS ALL THE WAY MISERABLE. SEX DRIVE WENT FROM VICIOUS-VOLCANIC TO DEFUNCT-DORMANT TO EXTINGUISHED-EXTINCT. PUSSY TURNED INTO THAT OLD HOUSE CAT. YOU KNOW THE ONE. THE KIND THAT JUST WANTS TO BE FED AND THEN LEFT THE FUCK ALONE TIL THE NEXT MEAL. JUST GRUMPY. A GRUMPY, GLOOMY, SAD, DRY, DEPRESSED COOCHIE.


DAYS *BLURRED TOGETHER.* THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY WEEK WAS WHEN THE PRICE OF GRAPES DROPPED TEN CENTS PER POUND AT WHOLE FOODS. I WAS LIKE *A GENUINE, LEGIT, BORING-ASS ADULT.*


ME AND THE GALS MADE HALF-ASSED EFFORTS TO LINK UP. PRETEND WE WERE INTERESTED IN EACH OTHER'S LIVES --BUT *BLEH.* HERE'S A HARD TRUTH ABOUT FEMALE BESTIES MOST DON'T KNOW, AND THOSE WHO KNOW, *WON'T ADMIT:*
WOMEN CAN'T STAND OTHER WOMEN, AND THE WOMEN THEY CAN'T STAND THE *MOST?* THEIR BEST FUCKING FRIENDS. YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME ON THIS, BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY LESS TRUE. ME, LANEKA, AND DEIDRE WERE *NO DIFFERENT.*


WE COULDN'T EVEN *FAKE IT* ANYMORE.
THE KILLING HAD DRAWN US CLOSER THAN EVER...
...THE LACK OF IT WAS DRIVING US APART.


THE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER NOW WAS AN INCONVENIENT REMINDER OF THE FIX WE HAD BEEN FIENDING FOR. WE WERE *JUNKIES* FORCED TO QUIT COLD TURKEY WITHOUT NOTICE. INSTEAD OF DEALING WITH THE ABSENCE OF OUR VICE, WE JUST SORT OF STARTED AVOIDING EACH OTHER.
CONVINCED OURSELVES WE WERE JUST *GROWING OLD*--FOCUSING ON OUR CAREERS, OURSELVES, YOU KNOW, ALL THE *USUAL PROCESSED BULLSHIT* FRIENDS GIVE FOR GROWING APART.

WHICH IS WHY IT WAS SO RANDOM WHEN THE PHANTOM BFF'S PLANNED AN IMPROMPTU GIRLS TRIP FOR MY BIRTHDAY. I'M STILL NOT SURE WHY I AGREED TO GO. UNDERLYING GUILT, I GUESS. WHATEVER IT WAS, AS YOU CAN SEE IN PANEL FORM, I DIDN'T PUT UP MUCH RESISTANCE AND LET DEIDRE KIDNAP MY ANTI-SOCIAL, CUTE ASS.
BUT STILL! IT HAD BEEN A MINUTE SINCE WE HAD GOTTEN TOGETHER FOR A POWWOW, AND THIS WAS PLAN B PREGNANCY-LEVEL UNEXPECTED. WHY THE FUCK THIS BITCH JUST POP UP ON MY DOORSTEP?
I KNOW WE NOT REALLY FUCKING WITH EACH OTHER LIKE THAT RIGHT NOW, BUT IT'S STILL YOUR BIRTHDAY, AND WE WILL BE TURNING UP.
SO STOP WHINING, 'CAUSE YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.
WE GOING ON THIS TRIP.
PERIOD.
UNT-UNT. DON'T SAY PERIOD.
SHIT SOUND SO FORCED COMING FROM YOU.
FUCK YOU, HOE.
DID THAT SOUND FORCED?
SOUNDED PERSONAL.
BITCH! IF YOU DON'T GET YO' DYKE ASS IN THIS GODDAMN RENTAL.

WHERE ARE WE EVEN GOING?
YOU'VE BEEN DRIVING ON ALL THESE SPOOKY-ASS BACK ROADS PLAYING THESE HELLA-OLD LIL JON SONGS.
AND WHY DID YOU GET THIS OLD-ASS RENTAL CAR?
AND WHERE THE FUCK IS LANEKA?
HOW COME SHE AIN'T COMING?
YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE SURPRISES! SO YOU NEED TO PUSSY-POP SOME DETAILS LOOSE SOON, OR WE TURNING THIS BROKE-DOWN, RAGGEDY SHIT AROUND AND HEADING THE FUCK BACK HOME.
RELAX WITH ALL THESE QUESTIONS, AND ENJOY THIS WAVE WE'RE ON, BITCH.
ALL WILL BE REVEALED IN DUE TIME.
IT'S SO WILD YOU HAVEN'T PUT ANYTHING TOGETHER YET. LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT DAY IS COMING UP?
IT'S MY BIRTHDAY. DUH! WE KNOW THAT, BUT WHAT THE FUCK DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THIS ENDLESS ROAD TRIP THROUGH TRAILERVILLE, USA?
OH SHAME ON YOU, OFFICER KAREN!
ALL THE SHAME. RIGHT THERE. ON YOU. THERE IT IS. SEE IT? SHAME.
BITCH, WHATEVER.
YES, IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, MADAME GRUMPKIN. BUT IT'S ALSO SOMEONE ELSE'S BIRTHDAY, OR DID YOU FORGET?

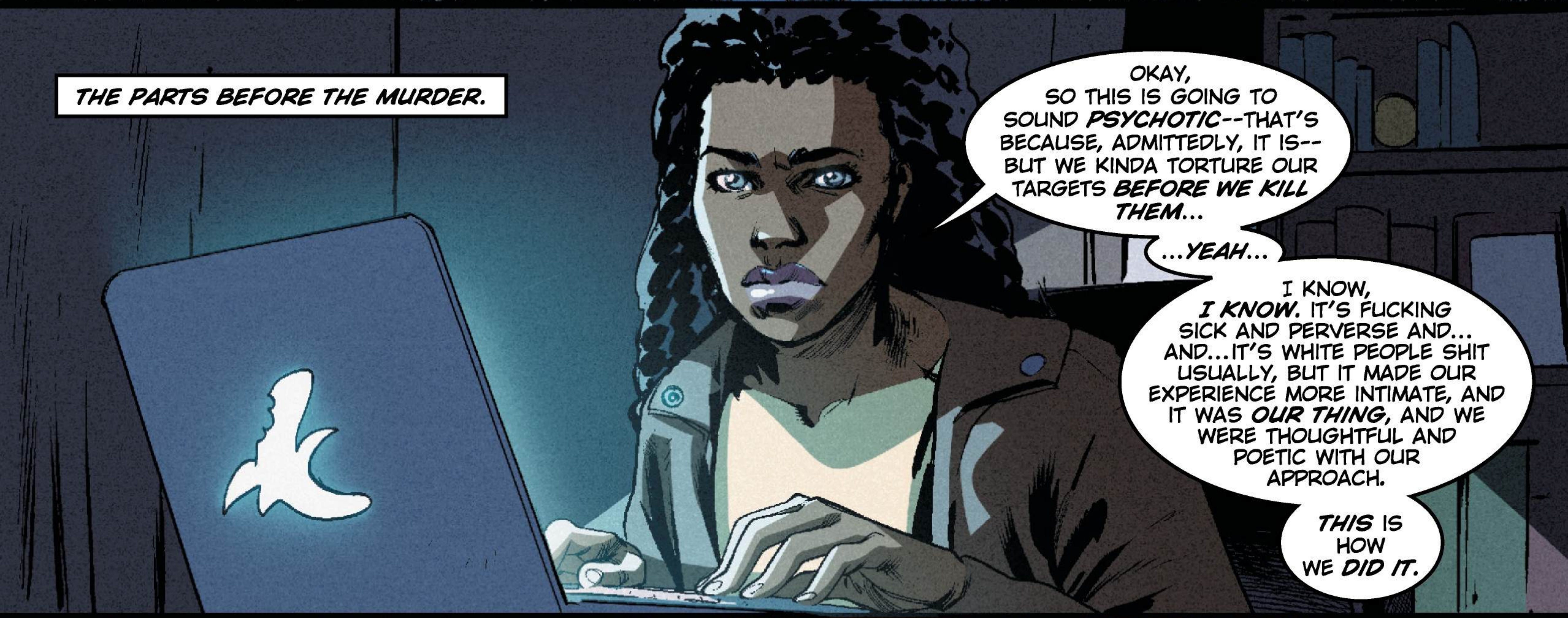
OH SHIT. *THAT'S RIGHT!*
ZORA NEALE HURSTON!
YES, *BITCH*. WE'RE GOING TO THE *ZORA NEALE HURSTON FESTIVAL* IN ORLANDO. LANEKA'S ALREADY UP THERE GETTING THE AIRBNB. THIS IS THE GET-TOGETHER WE'VE BEEN *NEEDING*.
WELL DONE, *BITCH. WELL DONE.*

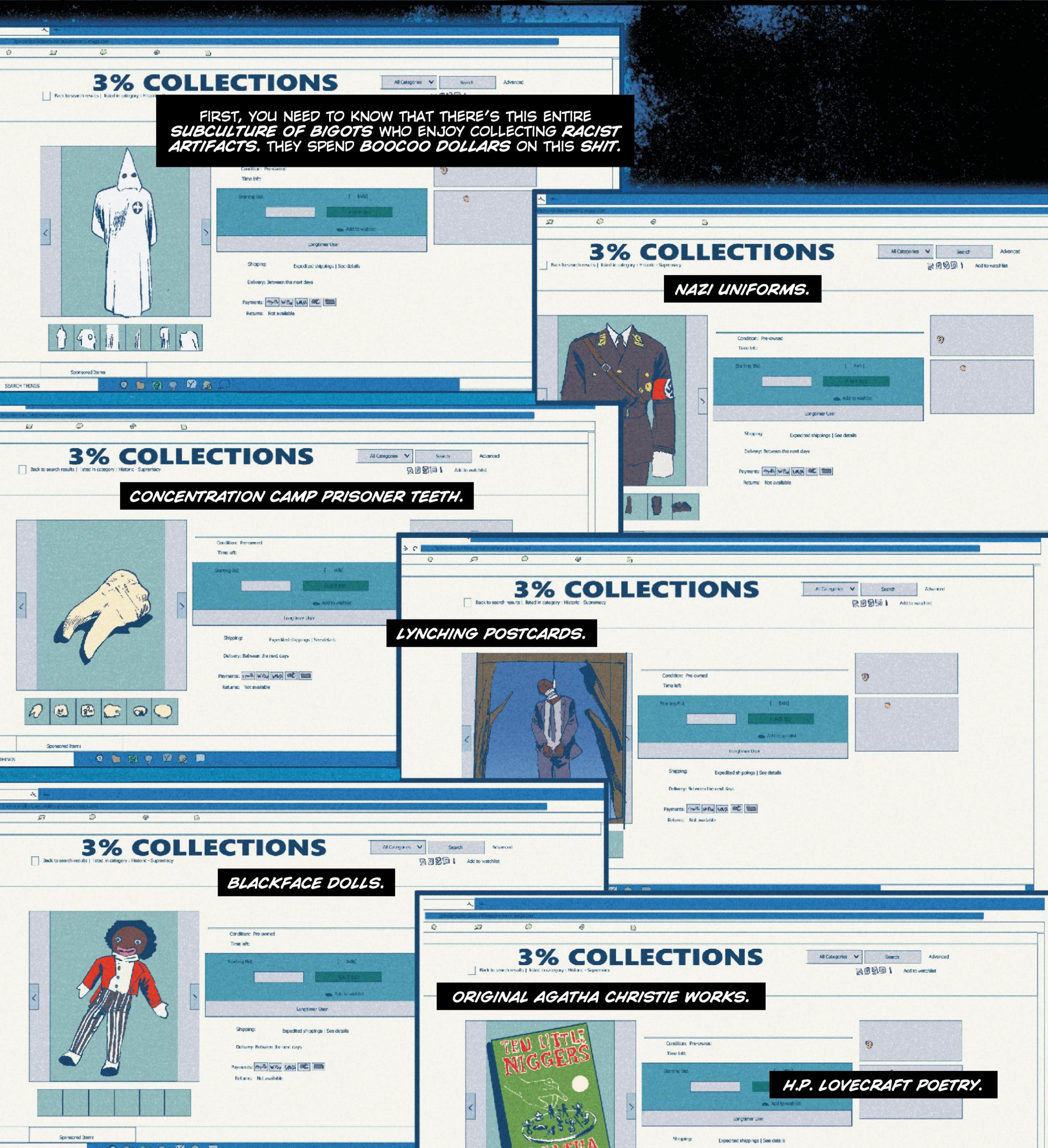
AN *HOUR LATER*.
I SWEAR I'M NOT TRYING TO BE A *BITTER BITCH*, DEIDRE--
NO, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE BEING, *KA-REN*. A BITTER, *SOUR-PUSS ASS BITCH*.
I JUST WISH YOU GUYS COULD'VE DONE SOMETHING FOR ME AT *HOME*.
ALL THIS DRIVING BLOWING ME.
WOW. *WOW*. AN HOUR AGO YOU WERE HYPED TO GO TO THE FESTIVAL, AND NOW YOU WANT TO GO HOME. WOW.
I'M IN A DIFFERENT PLACE *NOW*. I DON'T LIKE TO BE AWAY FROM HQ, YOU KNOW. I NEVER ASKED FOR THIS.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO ASK YOUR FRIENDS TO DO SOMETHING THOUGHTFUL FOR YOU ON YOUR BORN DAY, *YOU SELFISH THING YOU!*
WHO THE FUCK YOU TALKING TO LIKE THAT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT MILLIONAIRE YOU GETTING DICK FROM GOT YOU THINKING YOU CAN *GET SPICY* WITH *ME*, BUT DON'T DO IT TO YOURSELF, *LITTLE GIRL*.
I WILL BEAT YOUR ASS. DID YOU FORGET WHO I AM?
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE THE WAY YOUR *UNGRATEFUL ASS IS ACTING*. LOOK--AT LEAST OPEN YOUR PRESENT WHEN WE GET THERE. CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME? IF YOU DON'T WANT TO STAY AFTER THAT, I'LL DRIVE YOU BACK TONIGHT. *DEAL?*
...
I CAN DO THAT. *DEAL*.
OL' DEIDRE. TALKING TO ME *LIKE A BOSS* NOW.
I TOUGHENED YOU UP BETTER THAN I THOUGHT. *PROUD MUVA* OVER HERE.

FINALLY.
PLEASE TELL ME THIS IS A JOKE.
THIS THE AIRBNB Y'ALL GOT?
WILL YOU STOP COMPLAINING.
GOD DAMN!
WE GOT THIS, OKAY. WE GOT YOU.
IT JUST LOOKS LIKE THAT ON THE OUTSIDE. WAIT TIL WE GET IN.
MAN, Y'ALL ON SOME BULLSHIT.
THIS SHIT LOOKS LIKE A DECOMMISSIONED METH LAB.
GOT ME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE IN THE BUTTFUCK BOONIES.
AND MY SIGNAL WEAKER THAN LAST NIGHT'S ERECTION. MAN, WHAT'RE Y'ALL DOING TO ME?
BEST BE PREPARED TO DRIVE MY ASS BACK. TO. NIGHT.
I AIN'T SIGN UP FOR THIS FUCKERY.
Y'ALL REALLY TRIED A BITCH.

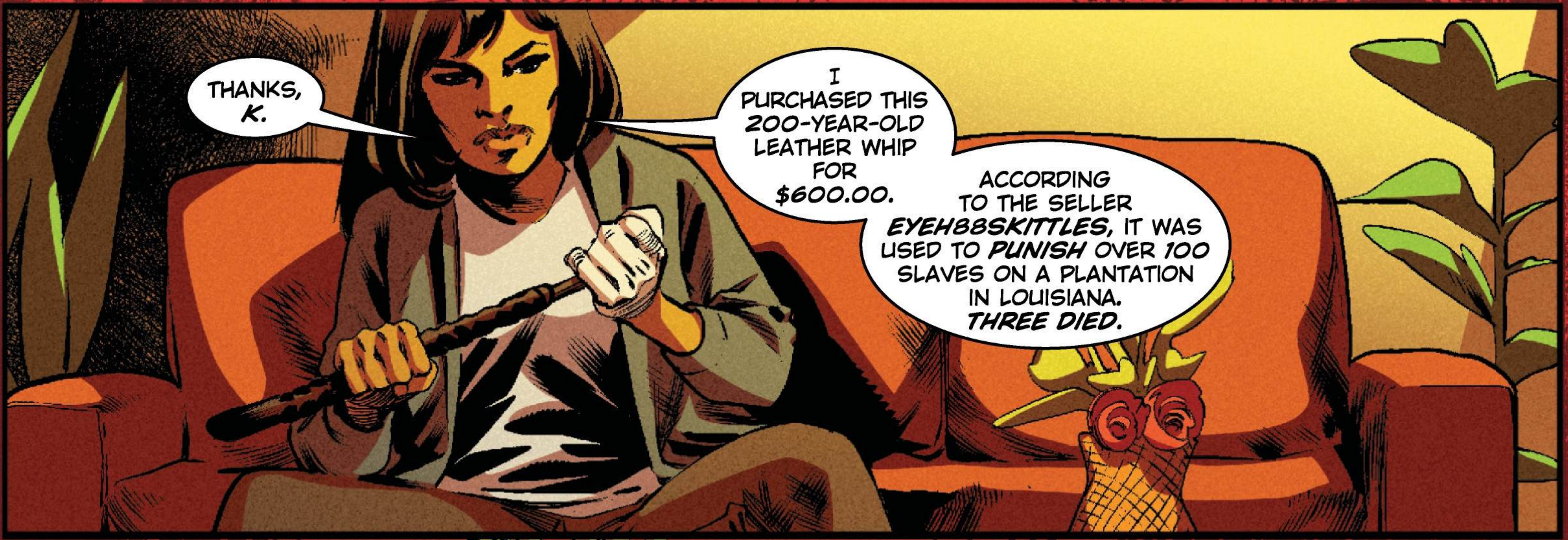
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BIIIIIIIIIIIIIITCH.
OOOOOOOOOOOOO OOOOOOOOOOOOOO OOOOOOOOOOOOO!
THAT'S-THAT'S-THAT'S--
[NAME REDACT] ! FAKE-ASS NAVAL ACADEMY REJECT TURNED GUN-TOTING, NEIGHBORHOOD WATCHMAN REJECT. YOU KNOW THE REST OF HIS STORY. KILLED AN UNARMED BLACK TEENAGER.
ACQUITTED BY AN ALL-WHITE JURY. BECAME A HERO FOR THE DON'T-TREAD-ON-ME CROWD. DISAPPEARED OFF THE GRID.
THAT'S HIM! HE'S RIGHT HERE IN FUCKING FRONT OF ME. ON ME AND ZORA NEALE HURSTON'S BIRTHDAY. WHAT ZEE FOOK?!

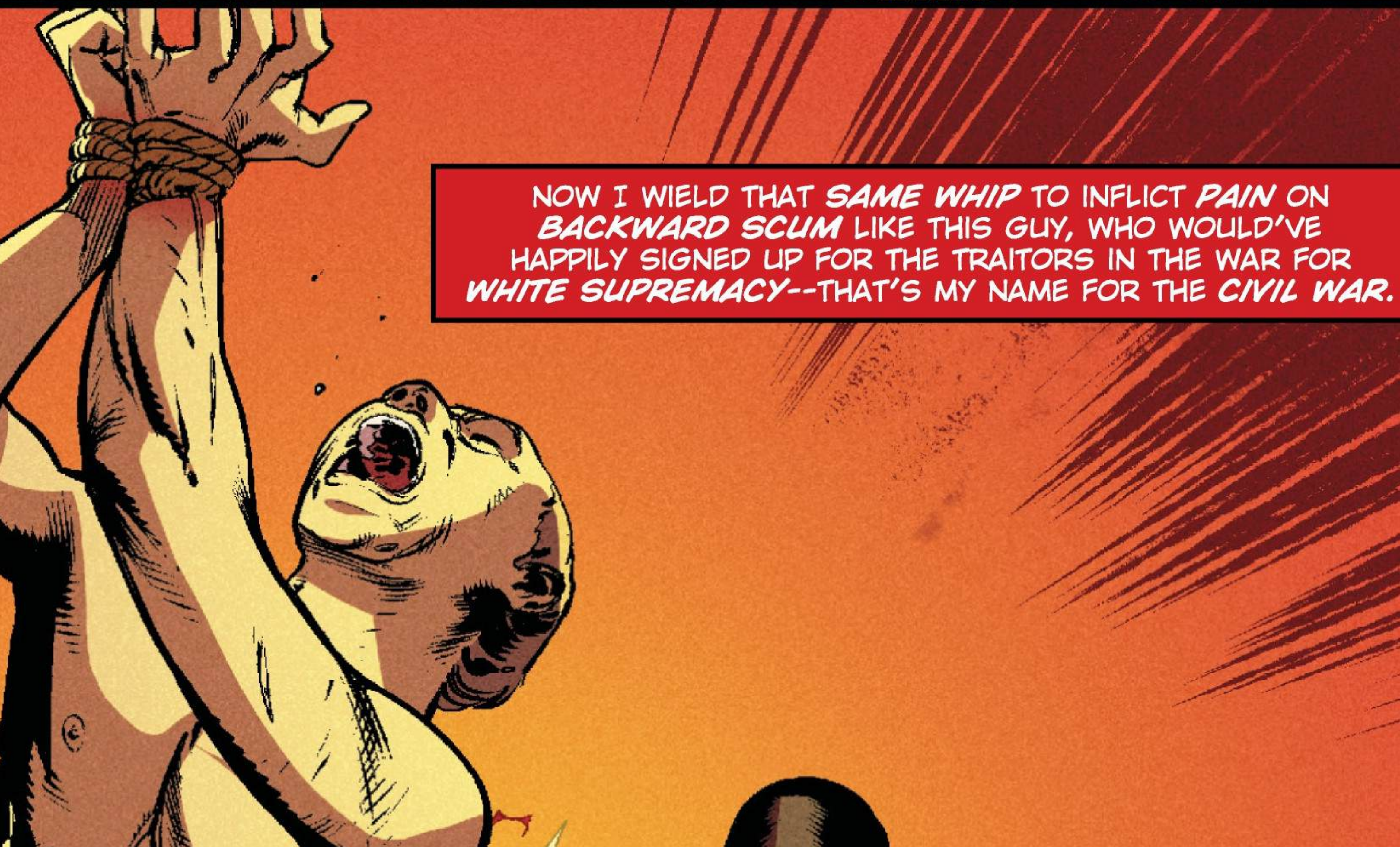
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. HOW DID YOU GUYS MANAGE TO--
WE'LL TELL THAT STORY LATER, GIRLFRIEND.
RIGHT MOTHERFUCKING NOW?
WE NEED TO COMMENCE WITH THE LULLABY OF THIS CRISCO TROLL.
I'VE BEEN USING HIS PHONE TO CHECK IN WITH HIS PEOPLES--THEY HIT HIM UP EVERY 30 MINUTES DUE TO ALL THE DEATH THREATS HE STILL GETS--
--BUT THERE'S NO SIGNAL OUT HERE, AND THEY'LL START GETTING REAL SUSPICIOUS IN A LIL BIT.
IF WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS DANCE, WE GOTTA BOOGIE NOW.
WE CAN'T JUST KILL HIM.
WE HAVE A ROUTINE.
WE HAVE MASKS. WE HAVE TOOLS, AND I LEFT LEXINGTON AT HOME.
I'M NOT PREPARED. WE CAN'T DO IT. IT WON'T FEEL RIGHT.
NOW YOU KNOW BETTER.
YOU REALLY THINK WE'D THROW A PARTY FOR YOU AND NOT HAVE GIFTS?
HOLD UP. WAIT. STOP. FREEZE FRAME. RECORD SCRATCH. ALLADAT'. WE DIDN'T SHOW YOU GUYS THE PARTS BEFORE THE ACTUAL MURDERS LAST TIME, DID WE?

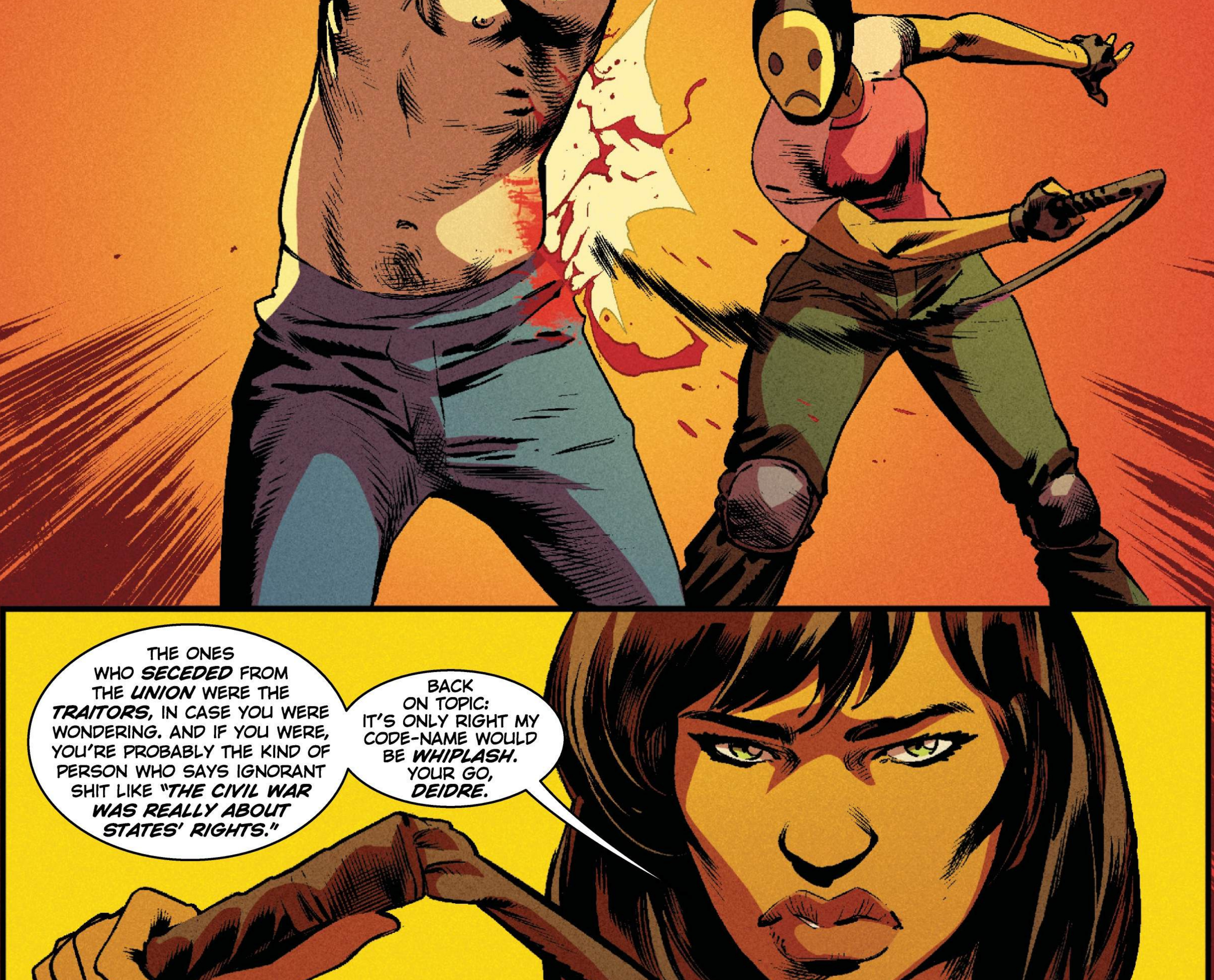

THE PARTS BEFORE THE MURDER.
OKAY, SO THIS IS GOING TO SOUND *PSYCHOTIC*--THAT'S BECAUSE, ADMITTEDLY, IT IS--BUT WE KINDA TORTURE OUR TARGETS *BEFORE WE KILL THEM*...
...YEAH...
I KNOW, *I KNOW.* IT'S FUCKING SICK AND PERVERSE AND... AND...IT'S WHITE PEOPLE SHIT USUALLY, BUT IT MADE OUR EXPERIENCE MORE INTIMATE, AND IT WAS *OUR THING*, AND WE WERE THOUGHTFUL AND POETIC WITH OUR APPROACH.
THIS IS HOW WE *DID IT.*


3% COLLECTIONS
FIRST, YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT THERE'S THIS ENTIRE *SUBCULTURE OF BIGOTS* WHO ENJOY COLLECTING *RACIST ARTIFACTS*. THEY SPEND *BOOCOO DOLLARS* ON THIS *SHIT*.
3% COLLECTIONS
NAZI UNIFORMS.
3% COLLECTIONS
CONCENTRATION CAMP PRISONER TEETH.
3% COLLECTIONS
LYNCHING POSTCARDS.
3% COLLECTIONS
BLACKFACE DOLLS.
3% COLLECTIONS
ORIGINAL AGATHA CHRISTIE WORKS.
TEN LITTLE NIGGERS
H.P. LOVECRAFT POETRY.

NOW GIVEN I JUST TOLD YOU WE *TORTURED PEOPLE*, ME CALLING SOMETHING *FUCKED UP* RINGS A LITTLE HOLLOW. *TRUE*--BUT THIS *CRUNCHY NUGGET* I'M ABOUT TO DROP ON YOU IS *LEVEL-UP FUUUUCKED UP*.
YOU SEE, IF THERE'S VERIFICATION THAT THE ITEM FOR SALE WAS USED IN THE *ACTUAL DEATH* OF A PERSON, PRICE GOES UP.
TOLD YOU IT WAS *LEVEL-UP FUUUCKED UP*.
LIKE THE *209* GRAND THE *CHUNKY BASTID* WE'RE ABOUT TO *FILET* MANAGED TO FETCH FOR THE GUN HE USED TO KILL [NAME REDACT]. AN ACTUAL, WHOLE HUMAN BEING PAID COLD, HARD CASH FOR A PIECE OF IRON, FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN IT WAS USED TO *KILL A BLACK KID*. *GREAT* COUNTRY YOU GOT THERE, FOLKS.
ANYWAY, ME AND THE LADIES TOOK IT UPON OURSELVES TO REMOVE A FEW OF THESE ITEMS OFF THE MARKET. AND YES, WE WERE GIVING OUR HARD-EARNED MONEY TO *SURVIVALIST PILLHEADS*, BUT WE WERE *NOW* USING THOSE *RACIST INTRUSTMENTS* OF *DEATH* ON *ACTUAL RACISTS*. SEE HOW WE *FLIPPED THAT SHIT*?
WE EVEN ADOPTED *CODE NAMES* FROM IT.
THIS YOUR PART NOW, LANEKA. *LET'S GO*.


THANKS, *K.*
I PURCHASED THIS *200-YEAR-OLD* LEATHER WHIP FOR *$600.00.*
ACCORDING TO THE SELLER *EYEHBBSKITTLES*, IT WAS USED TO *PUNISH* OVER *100* SLAVES ON A PLANTATION IN LOUISIANA. *THREE DIED.*


NOW I WIELD THAT *SAME WHIP* TO INFLICT *PAIN* ON *BACKWARD SCUM* LIKE THIS GUY, WHO WOULD'VE HAPPILY SIGNED UP FOR THE TRAITORS IN THE WAR FOR *WHITE SUPREMACY*--THAT'S MY NAME FOR THE *CIVIL WAR.*


THE ONES WHO *SECEDED* FROM THE *UNION* WERE THE *TRAITORS,* IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING. AND IF YOU WERE, YOU'RE PROBABLY THE KIND OF PERSON WHO SAYS IGNORANT SHIT LIKE *"THE CIVIL WAR WAS REALLY ABOUT STATES' RIGHTS."*
BACK ON TOPIC: IT'S ONLY RIGHT MY CODE-NAME WOULD BE *WHIPLASH.* YOUR GO, *DEIDRE.*

THEY CALL ME *HANG GIRL.*
MY WEAPON OF CHOICE IS A *NOOSE.* ACCORDING TO ONLINE SELLER *QTRILLRAIDER,* THIS ONE WAS USED IN THE *1923 LYNCHING* OF *NATHANIEL WASHINGTON* DOWN IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.
I WON'T RECOUNT THE *GORY* DETAILS OF THAT PARTICULAR INCIDENT, OTHER THAN TO SAY IT INVOLVED A WHITE WOMAN'S *FALSE* ACCUSATION OF RAPE. NO ARREST, NO TRIAL, AND THE HANGING OF AN *INNOCENT BLACK MAN.*
NOW I USE THIS *SAME NOOSE*--WHICH I HAPPEN TO BELIEVE CONTAINS *NATHANIEL'S SPIRIT*--TO ASPHYXIATE MURDERERS WHO LIKE TO SAY STUFF LIKE, *'I'M NOT RACIST, BUT...'*
WHAT I REALLY LIKE TO DO IS *DEPRIVE* THE INTENDED OF AIR RIGHT UP UNTIL THEY'RE *ABOUT TO PASS OUT,* AND RIGHT THEN AND THERE IS WHEN I LET UP ON MY GRIP.
SOON AS THEY COME BACK TO, THEY START *BEGGING US* FOR MERCY--*WHICH WE NEVER GIVE.*
LET'S PASS IT BACK TO *KAREN* TO WRAP THIS ALL UP AND TAKE US HOME.

I'M *THE IMPALER.*
'PRECIATE, *DEIDRE--MY BAD. --HANG GIRL.*
THAT'S 'CAUSE I USE A *12-INCH DILDO WITH SPIKES* TO VIOLATE OUR *VICTIMS.*
IT'S NOT *HISTORICAL PER SE.* MORE OF A COMMENTARY ON THE *HYPER SEXUALIZATION* AND *TRAUMA PORN* ASSOCIATED WITH BLACK BODIES.
I CHANNEL THAT *TRIFLING TROPE* INTO A *DILDO,* USING IT TO WRECK THE RECTUMS OF THE *UNJUST* WHO TRANSMIT THE HARMFUL STEREOTYPES I'M *IRONICALLY* PLAYING OFF OF.
F.Y.I., I CALL THIS BAD BOY HERE *LEXINGTON STEELE.*

BACK LIKE WE NEVER LEFT THIS *BIH.*
THIS IS ***THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING*** I'VE EVER SEEN IN MY LIFE.
I SHALL CALL HIM ***MR. MARCUS,*** AND HE SHALL BE ***MINE.***
ALL THAT'S MISSING IS THE MUSIC.
PLAY THAT SHIT.
AND OH YEAH--WE HAVE AN ENTIRE PLAYLIST OF BIRTHDAY-THEMED SONGS WE PLAY WHILE WE'RE ***FUCKING SHIT UP.*** THE USUAL JOINTS. WE STICK TO THE CLASSICS, MOSTLY.
JE – BIRTHDAY SEX
RIHANNA – BIRTHDAY CAKE
UNCLE LUKE – IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
DRAKE – RATCH
TREY SONGZ – SAY
NICKI MINAJ – GETTING CAKE
TRAVIS PORTER – BIRTHDAY GIRL
STEVIE WONDER – HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TRICK DADDY – IT'S MY DAWG BIRT
50 CENT – IN DA CLUB
Chainz Feat. Kanye West

OUR *JUSTICE SESSIONS*--THAT'S WHAT WE CALL THESE MURDERS BECAUSE *"KILLING APPOINTMENT"* SOUNDS SO BARBARIC. THEY USUALLY LAST ABOUT AN HOUR OR SO.
LANEKA...SORRY, *WHIPLASH* (CODE NAMES ONLY WHEN ON SITE) DOES HER THING.
HANG GIRL DID HERS.
AND YOU ALREADY KNOW I, *THE IMPALER,* GOTS BUSY.
SPREAD 'EM WIDE, BIG BOY. *MR. MARCUS* DON'T STOP TIL HE FEELS THE *BACK OF TEETH.*
SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE WE FORCE THE *FUTURE DEPARTED* TO ADMIT THEIR SIN *ALOUD*--
I'M-A-RACIST SHITBAG-WHO-KILLS INNOCENT-BLACKBOYS-*I'M-A RACIST-SHITBAG-WHO-KILLS INNOCENT-BLACK BOYS.*

EVENTUALLY, ONE OF US ***FINISHES THEM OFF***. WE ROTATE TURNS. WHOEVER'S UP GETS TO DECIDE HOW TO ***END IT***. BUT WE MADE AN EXCEPTION THIS TIME SINCE IT WAS MY ***G DAY***.
I WENT WITH AN ***INJECTION*** OF CONCENTRATED BLEACH. A TRULY HORRIBLE DEATH FOR A HORRIBLE MEMBER OF THE SPECIES. HIS SUFFERING WAS ***ZEN***.

WE LEFT [NAME REDACT]'S BODY TO BE DISCOVERED BY THE FLIES, RATS, SNAKES, AND COPS.
WELCOME TO ZORA FESTIVAL 2018
ZORA! 2022 FESTIVAL
SALE BOOKS
WE HIT THE ZORA NEALE HURSTON FEST THE NEXT DAY. NOT GONNA LIE--IT WAS MORE FESTIVE THAN I REMEMBERED.
AND THEN WE HEADED THE FUCK BACK HOME.
MIAMI 200 MILES
WE'VE BEEN PLANNING THIS SINCE LAST YEAR.
WE KEPT YOU OUT THE LOOP BECAUSE WE KNEW YOU'D DISCOURAGE US.
SO Y'ALL REALLY DIDN'T TAKE SEPARATE CARS?
FUCK NO.
WE DROVE UP HERE TOGETHER TO DO OUR DIRTY, THEN SHE DROVE BACK TO GET YOU. I STAYED.
AND THAT TRAILER?

IT REALLY WAS AN AIRBNB.
THE OWNER ADVERTISES IT AS AN ***OFF THE GRID SANCTUARY.***
NO WI-FI, NO CELL SERVICE, NO DIGITAL CHAINS.
IT'S A DOOMSDAYER'S WET DREAM.
DON'T WORRY--WE ***STILL*** SWEPT THE PLACE FOR CAMERAS AND BUGS.
LIKE ALWAYS.
AND WE USED A BURNER ACCOUNT WITH A BURNER CREDIT CARD FOR THE RENTAL. ***LIKE ALWAYS.***
SUA 378
PHONY PLATES.
CAMERA REFLECTING TINTS.
ALL TOGETHER NOW.
LIKE. MOTHERFUCKING ALWAYS.
LANEKA AIN'T EVEN TOLD YOU ABOUT HOW WE FOUND ***OL' BOY.***

EH, WASN'T THAT IMPRESSIVE. I GOT MY GUY AT THE DMV TO GET HIS HOME ADDRESS.
ARROGANT ASS STILL LIVES IN THE SAME TOWN HE KILLED [NAME REDACT] IN. SHIT IS SURREAL.
HEY- HEY. HEY, KAREN. ASK ME HOW WE ABDUCTED HIM.
OKAY. HOW'D YOU--
I CATFISHED THAT BITCH! PUSSY REMAINS UNDEFEATED. SAY HELLO TO KATRINA.
THE AUDACITY.
Y'NOW, THE ONE HE WAS ARRESTED FOR BEATING UP ON ***50 KATRILLION TIMES.***
DUDE DEFINITELY HAS A TYPE.
SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE HIS *EX-WIFE.*
AND YET SOMEHOW, THANKS TO THIS STATE'S ***UNFAIRLY POWERFUL AND CORRUPT GUN LOBBY,*** HE'S STILL ABLE TO OWN A FIREARM LEGALLY.
MESSAGE!
HE DIDN'T ASK TO FACETIME OR NOTHING? HE JUST WENT WITH IT?

GIRL, I PUT THAT SAUCE ON HIM EXTRA HEAVY-EXTRA THICK. HE BOUGHT THAT BULLSHIT WITHOUT ME EVEN PUTTING IT ON CLEARANCE.
TOLD HIM MY PHONE'S CAMERA WAS BROKEN AT THE MOMENT, SO WE COULD ONLY TALK OR TEXT, BUT I'D BE HAPPY TO MEET UP ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, FOR ANYTHING. "JUST LET ME KNOW, SEKSI."
HE SET THE DATE.
WHICH I OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T SHOW FOR.
"WHILE HIS LONELY ASS WAS WAITING AND HITTING UP 'KATRINA'S' PHONE..."
"...LANEKA AND I WERE BREAKING INTO HIS SHOCKINGLY MODERN HOME."

HE MUST'A REALLY THOUGHT "KATRINA" WAS GONNA *DROP THAT MONKEY PAW* ON HIM *THAT NIGHT*--BECAUSE IT TOOK HIS *FAT, SLOPPY SELF* FOREVER TO GET BACK FROM WAITING ON HER TO SHOW.
"IF YOU COULD'VE SEEN HIS FACE WHEN HE WALKED INTO HIS OWN HOUSE AND SAW US WAITING FOR HIM.
"THIS BITCH KNOCKED HIM OUT WITH ONE BLOW. YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THAT SHIT. *BOP!*"
IT'S THE *BOP!* SOUND EFFECT FOR ME.
NO! SHIT. FUCK. SHIT-FUCK-SHIT. WE FUCKED UP!
WE FUCKED UP?
HOW YOU FIGURE? WE WERE *EXTRA CAREFUL*. MORE THAN USUAL SINCE YOU WEREN'T THERE WITH US.
QUADRUPLE-CHECKED OUR WORK LIKE A TEACHER'S PET. FUCK YOU MEAN WE FUCKED UP?
NO. *NO*. *WE FUCKED UP*. WE REALLY FUCKED UP. WE'RE DONE. WE'RE THROUGH. WE'RE FINISHED.

OKAY, YOU CAN'T *FREAK OUT* IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SHARE WHAT IT IS YOU'RE FREAKING OUT ABOUT.
MY PHONE! IT WAS IN THE AREA OF THE MURDER SITE.
ITS PING CAN BE TRACED AND PLACE ME AT THE SCENE. THIS IS WHY YOU SHOULD'VE JUST TOLD ME WHAT WE WERE DOING. I WOULD'VE STILL BEEN DOWN, BUT I COULD'VE TAKEN THE *PROPER PRECAUTIONS.*
FUCK! THIS IS MAJOR. A HIGH-PROFILE MURDER LIKE THIS? IT'LL BE ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THE INVESTIGATORS LOOK FOR. I'M TELLING YOU WE FUCKED UP. THIS COULD BE THE END FOR US.
SO, YOU *HOES* WANT TO SEE THE LIST OF NEW TARGETS I MADE FOR US WHILE WE WERE OFF?
WE WERE *US* AGAIN. AND AS FOR THAT LIST OF LANEKA'S--

--WE WASTED NO TIME GETTING TO THE GET.
I MISSED THIS SHIT. THE THRILL OF THE KILL. THE SECRECY. THE PLANNING. THE LOGISTICS. THE HUNT. THE GETTING AWAY WITH IT. CAN'T TOUCH THAT FEELING.
SERIAL KILLER STATE OF MIND. WE WERE KILLING RACIST VIOLATIONS OF GENETICS.
THE GOOD TIMES KEPT ON ROLLING AGAIN. AND THEY KEPT ROCKING--
--AND BOUNCING...
...AND JOOKING...
...AND JIVING...
...AND SHAKING...
...AND BAKING...
...AND THEN...
SKIN
HEAD

...SOMEBODY STARTED KILLING FOLK WHO *LOOKED LIKE US.*
MIAMI
FBI
♫ "THE HATE THAT HATE PRODUCED" BY *SISTER SOULJAH* PLAYS. ♫

M18
SMOKE
VIOLET
AWA

"I can't believe what you say,
because I see what you do."
— JAMES BALDWIN

Chapter 03

SO HERE WE ARE IN A WEIRD CONTRADICTORY POSITION OF BEING APPALLED AT A RASH OF SLAYINGS, WHEN WE OURSELVES ARE GOING AROUND COMMITTING A RASH OF SLAYINGS.
THIS IS DEIDRE BY THE WAY. THE LIGHT SKIN ONE. NO, THE OTHER ONE. ANYWAY, WHATEVER; IT'S MY ISSUE TO NARRATE AND I'M JUST LETTING YOU KNOW AT THE ***READY-SET-GO*** I TEND TO BE SCATTERBRAINED. ***DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.***
FBI
FBI
HERE'S SOME MORE THINGS ABOUT ME YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT ME: NAME IS ***DEIDRE***. HI. MED SCHOOL DROPOUT. I RUN THIS ***HIPPY JUICE SPA CLINIC*** OUT IN WESTON. MOSTLY CAUCASIAN TROPHY WIFE CLIENTELE. WELL, AT LEAST UNTIL NIPSEY GOT KILLED--
4
2
ONCE THAT SHIT HAPPENED, BLACKS ALL OF A SUDDEN STARTED GETTING HEAVY INTO THE DR. SEBI'S OF THE WORLD, AND DIPPING THEIR TOES INTO ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE AND HOMEOPATHIC CLEANSES. THEY USED TO ***CLOWN ME*** FOR TALKING ABOUT THAT KIND OF STUFF. THEN ONE RAPPER WHO WAS ON THAT TIP GETS POPPED, AND IT'S ALL THEY WANT TO TALK ABOUT. ***DEFINITION OF A FOLLOWER.***
3
NOW MY SPA IS FULL OF THIS INFLUX OF ***FRESH BLACK CUSTOMERS***. COOL, RIGHT? THEY WANT THEIR IV DRIPS, THEY WANT THEIR MEAL PREP PLANS. THEY GETTING THEIR ***ASSHOLES BLEACHED***. NEW CLIENTS. NEW MONEY. WHAT'S THE ***PROBLEM***, DEIDRE?
THE PROBLEM IS ***US***. THE BLACK CUSTOMERS' PRESENCE DROVE AWAY ALL MY LONG TIME WHITE CUSTOMERS. TO THESE WHITE FOLKS, ONCE MORE THAN TWO BLACK PEOPLE SHOW UP TO A SPOT, IN THEIR MIND, IT'S ***"GHETTO,"*** THE RIFFRAFF HAVE TAKEN OVER, AND THEY NO LONGER WISH TO FREQUENT SAID ESTABLISHMENT.
FBI EVIDENCE RESPONS TEA
FBI
AND THEN THERE'S ***THIS PART***, WHICH I'D NEVER SAY ALOUD, BUT THIS JUST US TALKING, AND BESIDES IF YOU SAID I SAID IT, I'LL JUST DENY IT AND BLOCK YOU FOR ALL ETERNITY, BUT--THE WHITE PEOPLE MONEY WAS FAR MORE CONSISTENT THAN THE SKINFOLK. AND THAT STEREOTYPE ABOUT TIPPING? ***IT DO BE FACTS***. I'M JUST SAYING--
WAIT, I'M SORRY. I GOT OFF TRACK AGAIN. ***THE BLACK ACTIVISTS KILLINGS***. RIGHT--

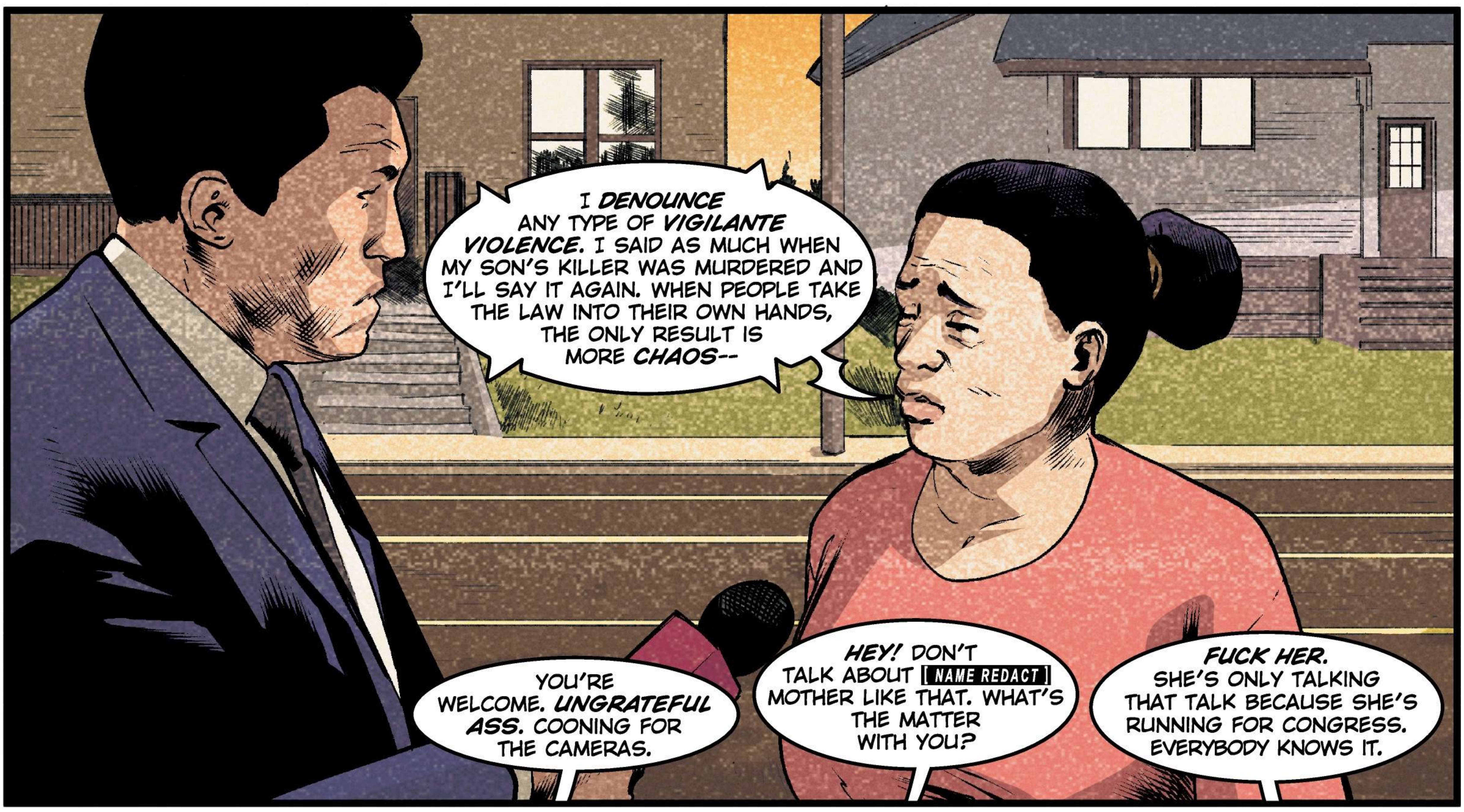
[NAME REDACT]. MERKED.
[NAME REDACT]. DUSTED. I NEVER DID CARE FOR HER WASHED TAKES, BUT STILL. YOU CAN'T JUST KILL [NAME REDACT].
FBI
[NAME REDACT]. MOTHERFUCKING FATALITY. AND THESE WERE JUST THE ONES MADE PUBLIC.
BLACK ACTIVISTS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL--THE REAL UNSUNG HEROES OF THIS CIVIL RIGHTS SHIT--THEY WERE GETTING CANCELED ALL THE WAY THROUGH TOO, AND NOT THAT FAKE SOCIAL MEDIA CANCELED EITHER.
I'M TALKING DEAD, GONE, DECEASED. NOT COMING BACK SAY HI TO TUPAC, BIGGIE, MIKE, AND PRINCE CANCELED.
AND MY GUY FREDDY TELLS ME...NEXT PAGE. HE TELLS ME ON THE NEXT PAGE. HELLO?! TURN. GO. GET TO IT ALREADY.

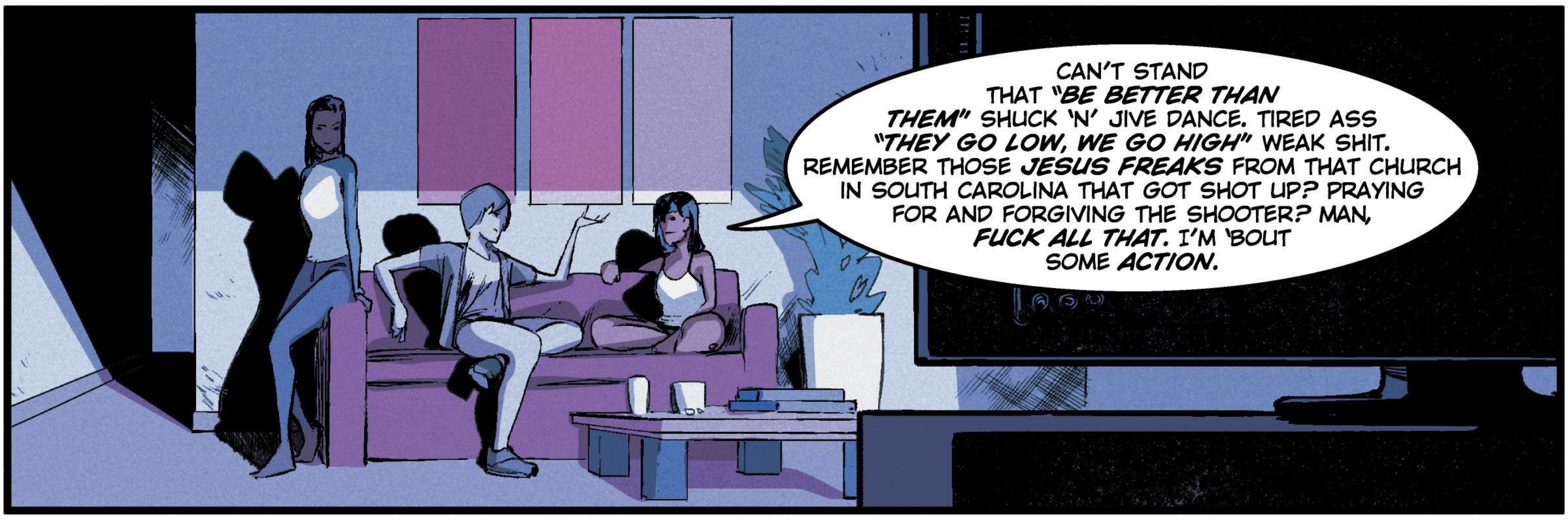
MY GUY FREDDY TELLS ME--
AND NOBODY WILL DO A FUCKING THING ABOUT IT EITHER.
WE GOT SON OF THE SOUTH JEFFERSON BEAUREGARD SESSIONS RUNNING POINT NOW, AND AIN'T NOBODY RUSTLING THOSE BAMA DRAWERS AND RISKING A CHECK BY GOING ON ABOUT SOME WHITE NATIONALISTS' NIGGA KILLINGS.
NO SIR. NOT ME.
HE AIN'T TRYING TO HEAR THAT SHIT.
AND LET'S NOT EVEN TALK ABOUT HOW A GOOD CHUNK OF THESE AGENTS ARE GOOD OL' BOYS THEY DAMN SELVES.
HALF THEM MOTHERFUCKERS STILL TIGHT HOLDER SPIKED THOSE SERIAL COP KILLERS INVESTIGATIONS A FEW YEARS BACK.
A GANG OF LOUDMOUTH UPPITY NEGROES BEING SYSTEMATICALLY KILLED? SHIIIIT, THAT'S JUSTIFIED PAYBACK IN THEIR BOOK.
HEY, WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT CASE? THE "COP KILLERS"?
LET ME CORRECT MYSELF --ALMOST NONE OF THEIR VICTIMS WERE ACTUALLY COPS--THEY WERE MOSTLY LAWYERS AND GUN LOBBYISTS, BUT Y'KNOW.
KILL ONE COP, THAT'S JUST WHAT THE FUCK YOU ARE IN THE EYES OF THE LAW. A FUCKING COP KILLER.
YOU GUYS EVER FIND OUT WHO WAS BEHIND ALL OF THAT?
NOTHING SOLID.
WHOEVER THEY WERE THOUGH, THEY WERE FUCKING SURGEONS.
THOROUGH.
FLAWLESS CRIME SCENES.
!
FARTHEST IT GOT AT THE BUREAU BEFORE IT WAS SHUT DOWN WAS THIS PROFILER WHO THEORIZED--GET THIS--THAT THE CULPRITS WERE LIKELY A GANG OF BLACK WOMEN.
INTERESTING.
FUCK. SHIT. I DID IT AGAIN, DIDN'T I? APOLOGIES. I'M TALKING ABOUT SHOWING YOU FREDDY, AND Y'ALL ARE ALL LIKE, "WHO THE FUCK IS FREDDY?"

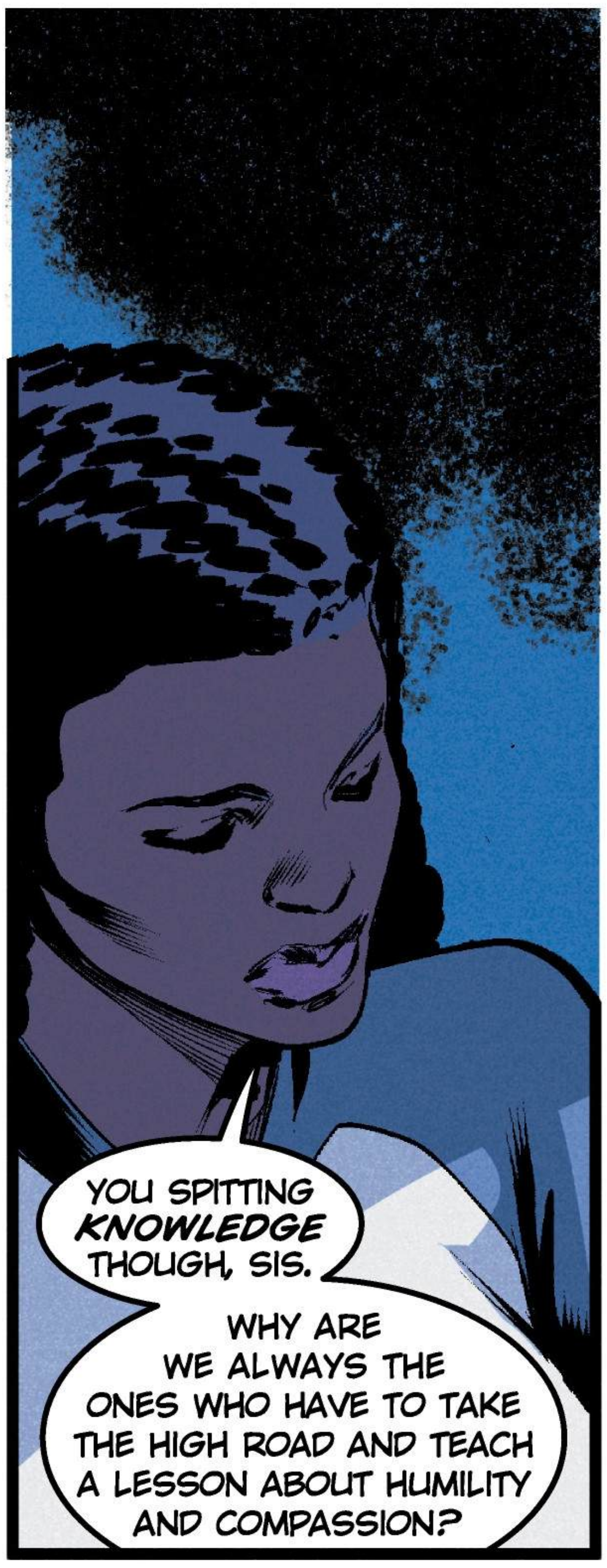
FREDDY WAS MY MED SCHOOL BOO. WE WERE THE ONLY BLACK STUDENTS IN OUR COHORT, *NATURALLY*...NO. NAW, THAT SHIT WASN'T NATURAL. *WE FORCED THAT SHIT*... FORCEFULLY, WE FORGED A *CONNECTION*.
BUT, LET'S JUST SAY FREDDY HAD SOME TWISTED FUCKED-UP VIEWS ON A WOMAN'S PLACE IN SOCIETY.
A MAN HAS THE RIGHT TO *HAVE SEX* WITH HIS WIFE WHENEVER HE *DEMANDS*.
LOOK IT UP. IT'S IN *THE BIBLE*.
IT'S NOT *RAPE*. NOT WHEN IT'S YOUR *WIFE*. YOU YANKS CALL EVERYTHING *RAPE!* WHAT IS RAPE EVEN *ANYMORE?!*
SHIT LIKE THAT. THE FUCKERY WAS BOLD. THE FUCKERY WAS AUTHENTIC. I JUST PUT ON A *PLASTIC SMILE* AND LET HIS OUTDATED ASS TALK. IT WAS *EASIER THAT WAY*.
THEN OF COURSE THERE WAS FREDDY'S *INSATIABLE LIBIDO*. THE MAN'S DICK WAS ALWAYS SET TO DRIVE IN SEARCH FOR A PLACE TO PARK--MALE GARAGES INCLUDED.
OH NO, NO, *NO* DON'T YOU *DARE* CALL HIM GAY OR *BI*. DON'T YOU DARE DO THAT.
I'M *NOT FUCKING GAY*, ALRIGHT.
STOP SAYING THAT SHIT!
WHEN I'M WITH A MAN, THERE'S NO EMOTION INVOLVED. IT DOESN'T COUNT. IT'S *JUST PHYSICAL*.
YEEEEEEAHHH. NEEDLESS TO SAY, IT DIDN'T WORK OUT WITH ME AND *OL' FRED DOG*. BUT, I DO STILL LET HIM CLAP THESE CHEEKS FROM TIME TO TIME WHEN A BITCH NEEDS HER *BACK* AND *THROAT REARRANGED*.
OH *FUCK YOU*. FUCK YOU AND YOUR *JUDGMENTAL SIDE EYE*. I SEE YOU. LIKE YOU DON'T ENGAGE IN *HOE ACTIVITY*. QUIT PLAYING, *BITCH*. YOU NOT AS CLASSY AS YOU THINK YOU ARE, BOO. *STOP PRETENDING*.
BESIDES, I'M FAR FROM THE ONLY GIRL IN THIS SERIES WITH A TRANSACTIONAL FUCK BUDDY--

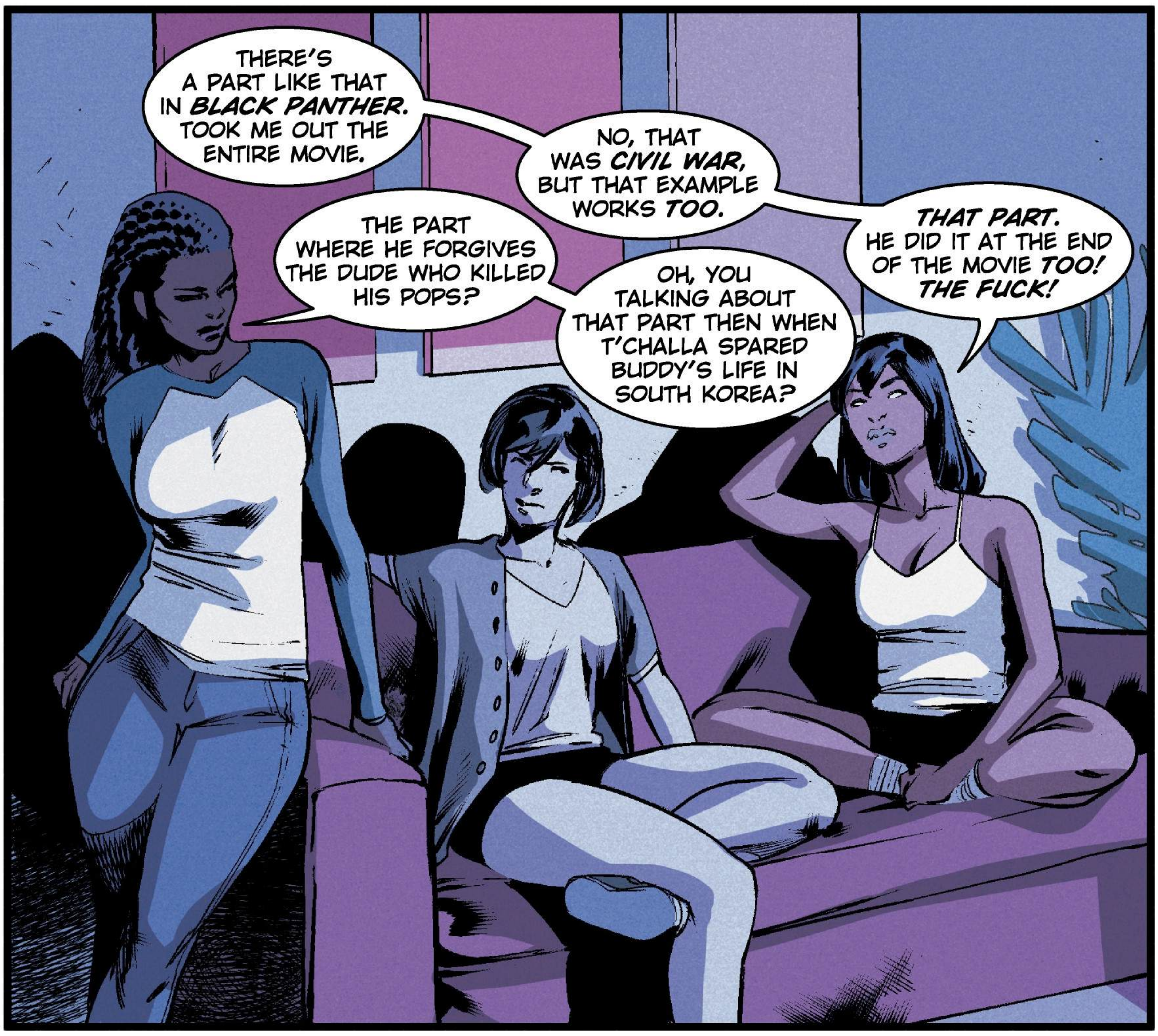
LANEKA *OL' HIGH* AND *MIGHTY BOUGIE SELF* IS A LONG-TIME PLAYER IN THE *HOE GAMES.* LETS THIS CORNBALL SOFTWARE ENGINEER HIT ON THE REGULAR WHENEVER SHE NEEDS SOMETHING HACKED INTO FOR HER CASES.
DUDE'S WICKED NOICE ON THE SCAMMER TIP, TOO. WHO YOU THINK WE'VE BEEN GETTING ALL THOSE BURNER PHONES AND CREDIT CARDS FROM?
BEG TO LICK THE SHIT OUT OF MY ASSHOLE, *SLAVE.* DO IT NOW!
AND KAREN? THAT MAMMOTH HOE HAS AN ENTIRE DOMINATRIX SIDE HUSTLE DOING FACETIME DICK RATINGS AND *CRUSHING CUCK BALLS.*
SHE TOUCHES MORE MONEY FROM THAT THAN SHE DOES OFF THE *COP BEAT.* HOW ELSE DID YOU THINK WE WERE FUNDING THIS OPERATION? I KNOW YOU DIDN'T THINK WE WERE USING OUR *9-5* JOB MONEY, DID YOU? C'MON, MAN.
BUT BACK TO FREDDY. AFTER MED SCHOOL, HE HAD A BRIEF STINT AT AN ORLANDO E.R., BUT TREATING GUNSHOT VICTIMS IN MICKEY MOUSE AND TOY STORY SHIRTS *ON A NIGHTLY BASIS* AIN'T *IT*--
THAT'S WHEN HE DECIDED TO BECOME AN *FBI AGENT,* WHERE HIS MEDICAL EXPERTISE MADE HIM A VERY IN-DEMAND INVESTIGATIVE POINT MAN. *DAMN!* THAT SOUNDS LIKE A BRILLIANT MID-SEASON TV SHOW PILOT.
DID I EVER TELL YOU I DABBLE IN FAN FICTION WRITING IN MY FREE TIME? IF I DIDN'T, I JUST DID. EROTIC TYPE STUFF LIKE THE ZANE BOOKS--I ADORE KRISTINA ROBERTS, BUT EVENTUALLY I WANT TO--*GOD DAMN IT!*
I DID IT AGAIN. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE GETTING INTRODUCED TO FREDDY. *BACK ON TOPIC.*

FREDDY'S BUSTED DRUG LORDS, WALL STREET FRAUDSTERS, BANK ROBBERS --THE BOY IS **GOOD**. BUT BEING **EXCEPTIONAL** COMES LOADED WITH EXPECTATIONS-- **UNREALISTIC AND UNATTAINABLE**--AND WITH EXPECTATION COMES **STRESS.**
103
COMPOUND THAT STRESS WITH A CLIQUE OF INNER DEMONS SHACKING UP INSIDE YOUR PSYCHE PREYING UP ON YOUR INSECURITIES--AND THEN ADD ON TOP OF THAT THE BURDENSOME WEIGHT OF DENYING AN ATTRACTION TO THE SAME SEX--**S-T-R-E-S-S. ALL CAPS.**
POOR CHILD. TOO PROUD TO **EVER ADMIT** HE NEEDED THERAPY. THE CLOSEST THING HE HAS TO **THAT** IS OUR **POST-BOOTY CALL** VENTING SESSIONS.
DO PEOPLE STILL USE THAT TERM? **"BOOTY CALL."** IT'S DATED, **RIGHT?** MAYBE. DOESN'T MATTER. I'M RESURRECTING IT. BOOTY CALL.
LET'S REWIND SOME, BECAUSE I WENT IRRITABLE BOWEL WITH THOUGHT EXPLOSION AND I'M **FUCKING UP THE NARRATION.** BLACK ACTIVISTS BEING KILLED. WHITE NATIONALISTS SUSPECTED. NO MOMENTUM AT THE BUREAU TO SOLVE THE CASE. THAT WAS ALL THE LEAD UP TO THE **FAT NUT** THAT TAKES THIS ENTIRE ISSUE--AND STORY--TO **ANOTHER LEVEL.**
YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS SHIT RIGHT HERE. YOU'LL KNOW IT WHEN YOU SEE IT.


I *DENOUNCE* ANY TYPE OF *VIGILANTE VIOLENCE*. I SAID AS MUCH WHEN MY SON'S KILLER WAS MURDERED AND I'LL SAY IT AGAIN. WHEN PEOPLE TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS, THE ONLY RESULT IS MORE *CHAOS*--
YOU'RE WELCOME. *UNGRATEFUL ASS.* COONING FOR THE CAMERAS.
HEY! DON'T TALK ABOUT [NAME REDACT] MOTHER LIKE THAT. WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
FUCK HER. SHE'S ONLY TALKING THAT TALK BECAUSE SHE'S RUNNING FOR CONGRESS. EVERYBODY KNOWS IT.


CAN'T STAND THAT *"BE BETTER THAN THEM"* SHUCK 'N' JIVE DANCE. TIRED ASS *"THEY GO LOW, WE GO HIGH"* WEAK SHIT. REMEMBER THOSE *JESUS FREAKS* FROM THAT CHURCH IN SOUTH CAROLINA THAT GOT SHOT UP? PRAYING FOR AND FORGIVING THE SHOOTER? MAN, *FUCK ALL THAT*. I'M 'BOUT SOME *ACTION*.


YOU SPITTING *KNOWLEDGE* THOUGH, SIS.
WHY ARE WE ALWAYS THE ONES WHO HAVE TO TAKE THE HIGH ROAD AND TEACH A LESSON ABOUT HUMILITY AND COMPASSION?

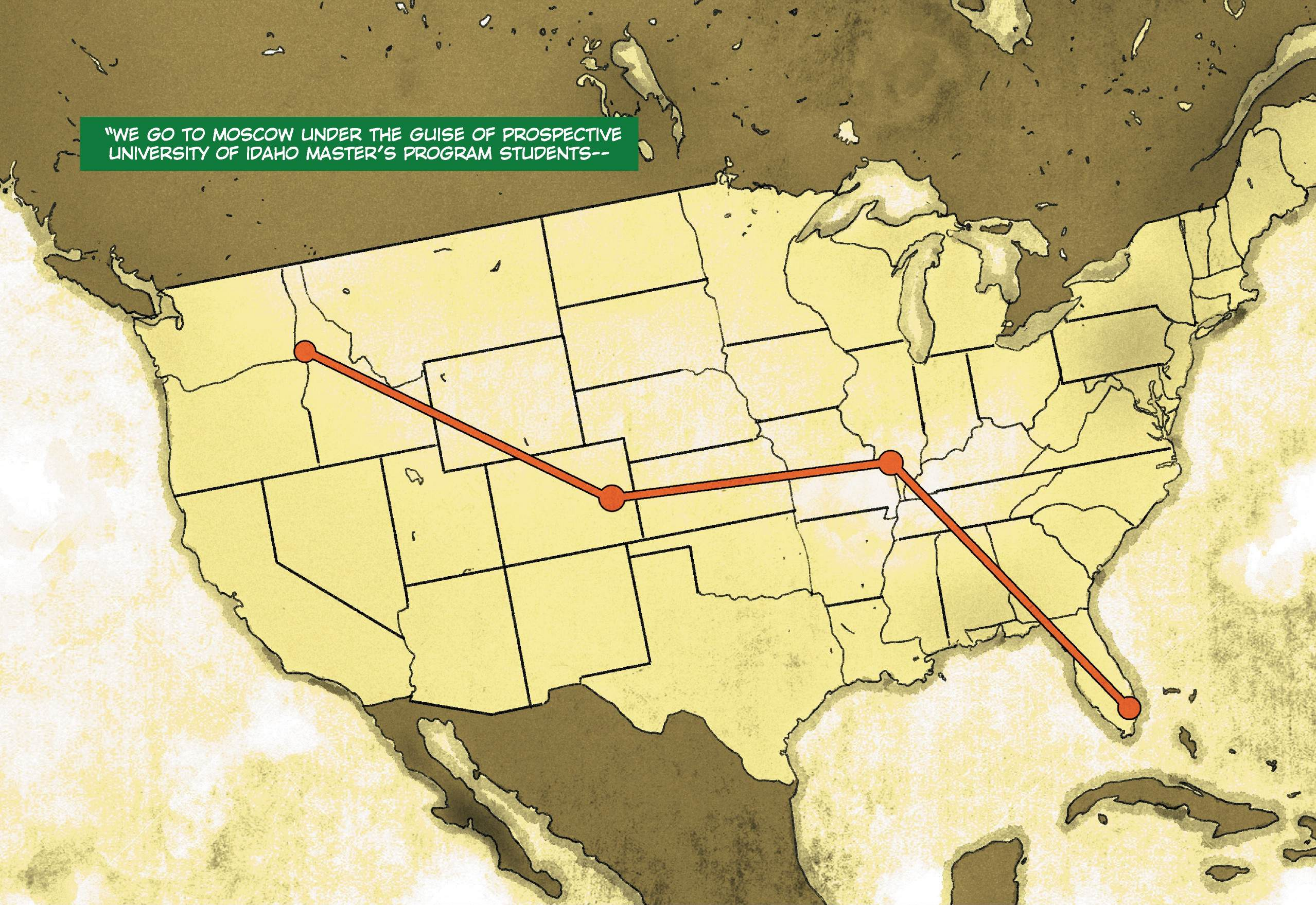

THERE'S A PART LIKE THAT IN *BLACK PANTHER*. TOOK ME OUT THE ENTIRE MOVIE.
NO, THAT WAS *CIVIL WAR*, BUT THAT EXAMPLE WORKS *TOO*.
THE PART WHERE HE FORGIVES THE DUDE WHO KILLED HIS POPS?
OH, YOU TALKING ABOUT THAT PART THEN WHEN T'CHALLA SPARED BUDDY'S LIFE IN SOUTH KOREA?
THAT PART. HE DID IT AT THE END OF THE MOVIE *TOO! THE FUCK!*

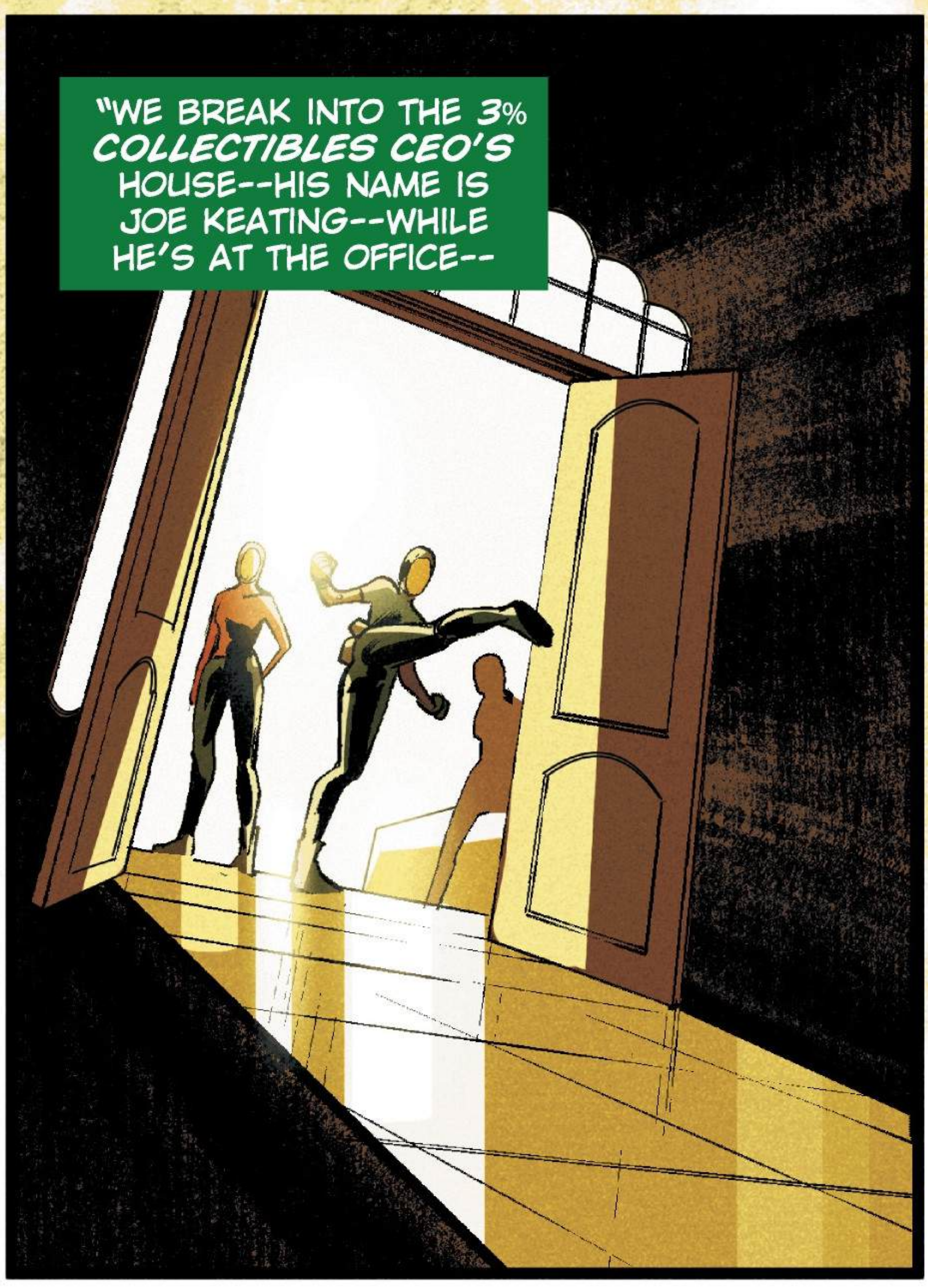
DO YOU TWO BROKE MARVEL ZOMBIES WANT TO HEAR WHAT FREDDY TOLD ME ABOUT THE ACTIVIST MURDERS?
BECAUSE I CAN FUCK ALL THE WAY OFF SOMEWHERE ELSE WITH THIS JUICY SHIT AND KEEP IT TO MYSELF.
BITCH-- HOW YOU GONNA ASK US SOME SHIT LIKE THAT?
OF COURSE WE WANT TO HEAR IT.
WHY YOU AIN'T JUST SAY YOU HAD SOME LOOSELIP FROM THE JUMP. COMMENCE WITH THAT TEA. YOU KNOW WE LIKE IT SCORCHING.
THEN YOU BITCHES GONNA NEED ONE OF THEM HEAVY DUTY MUGS, BECAUSE THIS BREW IS MOLTEN.
THE TEA POT.
LOOK AT THIS. AIN'T THIS SOME FUCKING SHIT?
THE KILLERS LIKE TO LEAVE THEM BY THEIR VICTIMS. YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS?
IS THAT A GOLLYWOG DOLL?
AND THERE IT IS. YOU SEE IT? THAT'S THE FAT NUT. JUST WAIT. IT GETS BETTER.

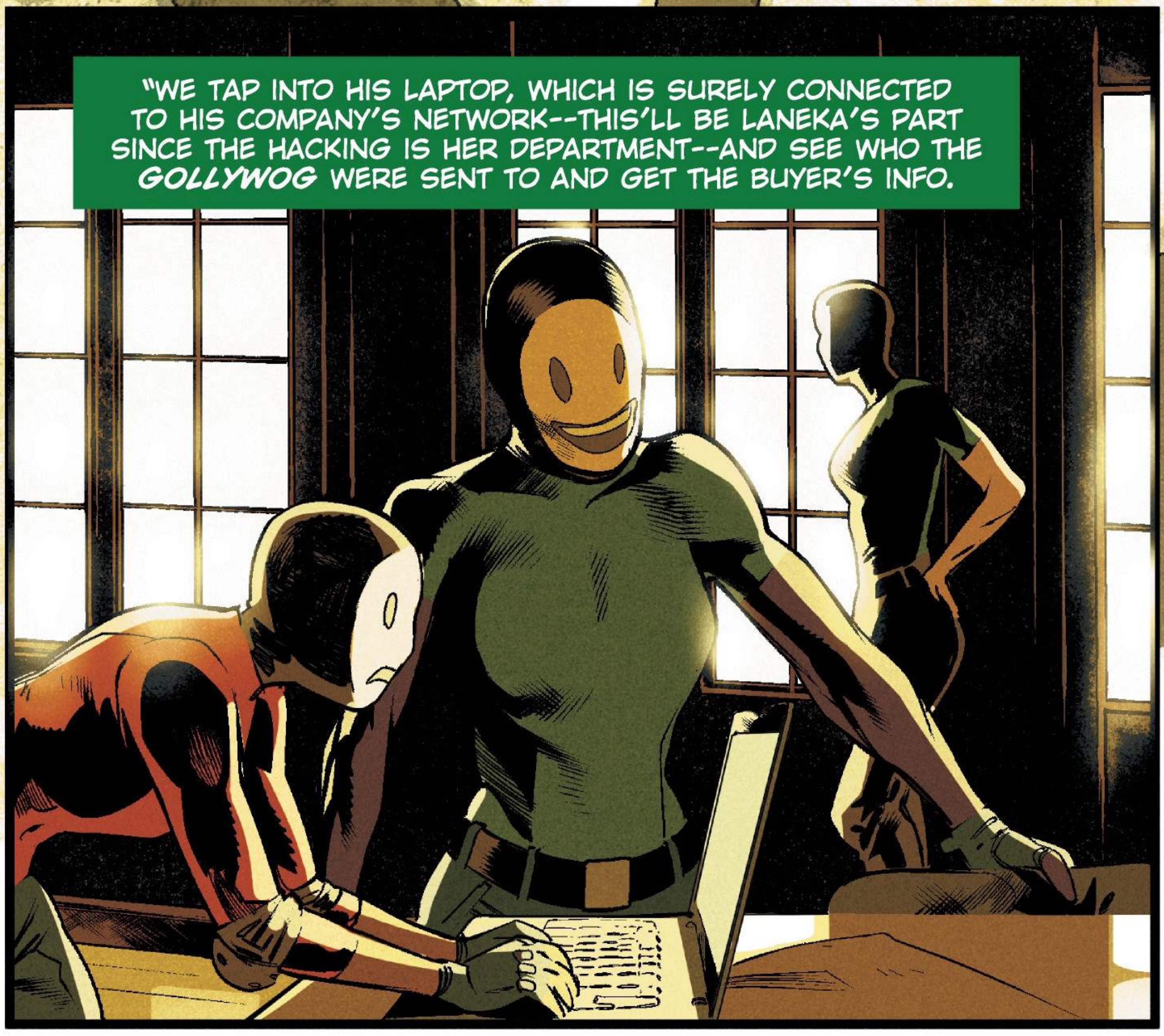
THAT'S IT? THAT'S ALL YOU GOT FOR US? A PICTURE ON A PHONE OF A ***GOLLYWOG?***
DAMN, WOMAN, CAN YOU LET ME FINISH? CAN I DO THAT?
UGH.
THANK YOU.
NOT JUST ***ANY*** GOLLYWOG DOLL. SEE THAT TAG ON HIS LEG THERE? THESE DOLLS ARE PART OF A COLLECTION-- ***A SERIES.*** THEY ALL HAVE A UNIQUE SERIAL NUMBER ON THE TAG RIGHT THERE--
SINCE THE DOLLS WERE ***CUSTOM MADE*** TO ORDER, EVERY SERIAL NUMBER HAS A NAME ATTACHED TO ITS BUYER.
LA060319775
THE MANUFACTURER IS THIS COMPANY CALLED 3% ***COLLECTIBLES,*** BASED OUT IN IDAHO, IN A LITTLE TOWN CALLED--I SHIT YOU NOT --MOSCOW.
IT'S A ***DECENT LEAD.*** IT'S SOMETHING. ***I GUESS.***
BUT FREDDY TOLD YOU ***NOTHING CAME OF IT.*** SO...

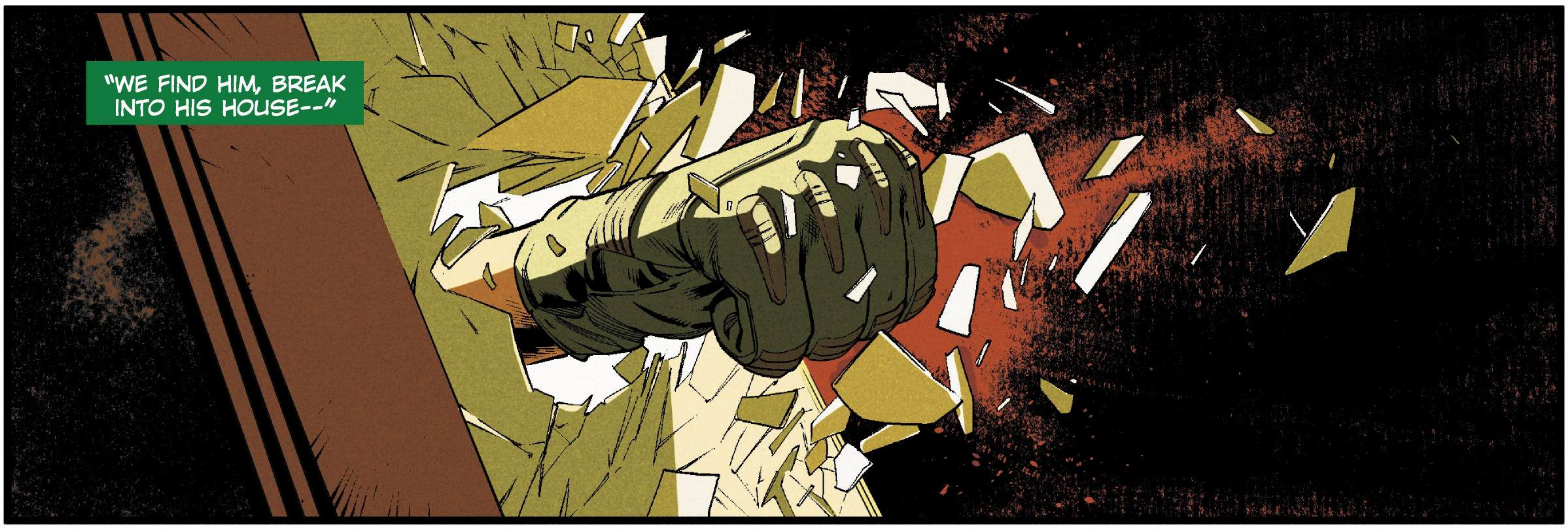
NOOOOOO. *NO.*
I SAID HE SAID THE *HIGHER UPS* DODGED AN INVESTIGATION, NOT THAT NOTHING CAME FROM IT.
I DID *NOT SAY THAT AT ALL*. YOU DID NOT HEAR ME SAY THAT.
YOUR *PILLOW TALK GAME* MUST BE SOMETHING SERIOUS TO GET A WOUND UP LAW ENFORCEMENT MAN LIKE *FREDDY* TO TALK ABOUT HIS CASES WITH YOU.
"SOMETHING SERIOUS?" HOW *DARE* YOU TRY ME. MY PILLOW TALK GAME IS DECADES PAST "SOMETHING SERIOUS." MY SHIT IS *LEGENDARY.*
I SURE HOPE SO WITH ALL THE *PRACTICE* YOU'VE HAD.
OOP! *NO THIS BITCH DIDN'T.*
ALL SHE MISSING IS A PICNIC BASKET FOR ALL THAT SHADE. BUT I *GET IT*. YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS OF MY *RESULTS*.
DON'T BE BITTER. BE BETTER, AND GET LIKE ME. WHO KNOWS, IN DUE TIME MAYBE YOU'LL FINALLY FUCK THE RIGHT PERSON AND GET THAT ELUSIVE PROMOTION. *YA' FUCKING UNDERLING*, YA'.
BELOW THE BELT, *DEIDRE*. BELOW THE BELT. *YOU WRONG FOR THAT*.

AND CAN I CLARIFY FOR THE RECORD, THAT WHAT FREDDY AND I DO SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS A ***FORM OF SEX THERAPY.***
HE SPILLS HIS GUTS TO ME FOR A FEW HOURS, ***AND THEN HE GETS UP IN MY GUTS***. IT'S LIKE HE'S STORING BUILT UP ENERGY, AND WHEN HE'S FULLY CHARGED AND RADIOACTIVE-- IT'S BANG, BANG, ***BANG***.
SO ROMANTIC. SO WHAT'RE YOU PROPOSING WE DO WITH THIS ***TIDBIT*** YOU'VE ACQUIRED?
I KNOW YOU--AND I KNOW YOU ALREADY GOT SOMETHING CRAZY PLANNED FROM SPERM AND EGG, TO CONCEPTION, TO A LIFE WELL LIVED. ***C'MON WITH IT***.
WELLLLL...
AND HERE WE GO.
SINCE YOU ASKED...


"WE GO TO MOSCOW UNDER THE GUISE OF PROSPECTIVE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO MASTER'S PROGRAM STUDENTS--


"WE BREAK INTO THE 3% *COLLECTIBLES CEO'S* HOUSE--HIS NAME IS JOE KEATING--WHILE HE'S AT THE OFFICE--


"WE TAP INTO HIS LAPTOP, WHICH IS SURELY CONNECTED TO HIS COMPANY'S NETWORK--THIS'LL BE LANEKA'S PART SINCE THE HACKING IS HER DEPARTMENT--AND SEE WHO THE *GOLLYWOG* WERE SENT TO AND GET THE BUYER'S INFO.


"WE FIND HIM, BREAK INTO HIS HOUSE--"

"WE TORTURE HIM UNTIL HE TELLS US WHO THE REST OF HIS CO-CONSPIRATORS ARE--"
WE FIND THEM. WE *KILL THEM.*
AND THEN WE GO BACK TO BEING THE *BAD ASS BITCHES* THAT WE ARE.
IT ALL BE SO SIMPLE, JUST LIKE THE *WU* SAID.
SO WHAT'S UP, WE SLIDING OR *NOT?*
BECAUSE I ALREADY BOOKED OUR TICKETS.

LOW-KEY, REAL SHIT: I'M THE **LOGISTICAL BRAINS** BEHIND THIS OPERATION. NOT JUST BECAUSE I'M THE SMARTEST--NO MATTER WHAT **LANEKA** THINKS--I JUST **AM**.
BUT ALSO BECAUSE I HAVE ACCESS TO THE MEDICAL TOOLS A **MOFO** NEEDS IF THEY'RE **SURREPTITIOUSLY**--OOOO I LIKE THAT WORD. GREAT FUCKING WORD. **YESSSS!** WAY TO USE IT IN A SENTENCE, DEIDRE. IF YOU'RE SURREPTITIOUSLY EXECUTING AUTONOMOUS PALE BOTS, YOU NEED THE PROPER INSTRUMENTS.
THE ***CHLOROFORM*** WE USE TO KNOCK THE RACISTS OUT? THAT'S ME.
THE ***SMELLING SALTS*** WE USE TO SNAP 'EM BACK TO LIFE SO WE CAN CONTINUE THE PARTY? THAT'S ***DEIDRE***.
THE ***LATEX GLOVES***--
HOSPITAL GRADE DISINFECTANT--
NURSE HEAD COVERS AND BOOT COVERS, SO WE DON'T TRACK BLOOD, PISS, AND SHIT--***YES, SHIT***. THEY WILL DO THAT FROM TIME TO TIME--SO WE DON'T TRACK IT BACK INTO OUR ***VEHICLES***?
THAT'S ***ALL ME***. ALL ME FOR REAL. IN MY DRAKE VOICE. PUT ***RESPECT*** ON A REAL BITCH NAME.

"THIS COMPANY, 3 PERCENT COLLECTIBLES--IT'S LIKE AN AMAZON CATALOG WISH LIST FOR BIGOTS. THERE'S LIKE AN ENTIRE SUBCULTURE OF SICK FUCKS WHO PAY TOP DOLLAR FOR RACIST SHIT LIKE WORN KLAN ROBES, NAZI GARB--"
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING, KAREN?
HEY, I WENT OVER ALL OF THAT LAST ISSUE. YOU'RE LATE.
IF I ANSWER, DO YOU PROMISE NOT TO BOTHER ME FOR THE REST OF THE FLIGHT?
WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS, RIGHT?
I KNOW WE'RE TELLING OURSELVES WE'RE DOING THIS FOR THE RIGHT REASONS--TRUTH, JUSTICE...
...BUT I KNOW WE ENJOY THIS SHIT.
WHAT IF OUR ORIGINAL REASON FOR SPRINTING DOWN THIS ROAD IS NOW JUST A CONVENIENT EXCUSE FOR US TO...
MURDER FOR FUN.

THE WORLD IS A JUNGLE, ***DEIDRE.***
"GOOD GUY" "BAD GUY". NOBLE. EVIL. FAIR. THESE ARE HUMAN CONCEPTS. MATTERS OF PERSPECTIVE.
SO, WHAT'S YOURS THEN?
MY PERSPECTIVE? ***MINE?***
SHOOK MIND WANTS TO KNOW?
MY PERSPECTIVE? IS...
APPRECIATE THE RIDE AND STOP ***OVERTHINKING SHIT.***
"APPRECIATE THE RIDE AND STOP OVERTHINKING SHIT." ***NIETZSCHE*** YOU AIN'T... BUT ***IT WORKS.***
THANKS. I ***NEEDED*** TO HEAR THAT.

MOSCOW, IDAHO.
"OKAY, BEFORE I TAKE YOU GUYS' ORDER, CAN I JUST SAY SOMETHING, AND I HOPE I'M NOT BEING ANNOYING, AND IF I AM, I APOLOGIZE. BUT I JUST LOVE YOUR HAIR, GIRL."
I LOVE IT. WHAT COLOR IS THAT? I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT SHADE BEFORE.
THANK YOU, BUT IT'S A *WIG.* CAN'T HELP YOU WITH THE COLOR, BUT--
MY SISTER'S A *STYLIST* RIGHT DOWN THE STREET THERE --YOU MIND IF I GET A PICTURE TO SEND TO HER?
I'M SORRY, IF I DON'T FIND OUT WHAT THAT COLOR IS, IT'LL DRIVE ME NUTS *ALL DAY.*
SHE *DON'T MIND.*
IT'S JUST SO *MAGNETIC.* YOU GIRLS MUST BE *U.I. STUDENTS?*
THE *SKIN COLOR* GAVE US AWAY?
I GUESS THE ONLY COLOREDS COMING THROUGH HERE ARE EITHER LOST OR *UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.*
IS THAT WHAT IT IS, *PAM?*
NO. *OH GOSH,* NO. NO, NO, *NO.* I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT. I WAS JUST--

THEY'RE JUST ***FUCKING WITH YOU***, PAM. ***RELAX.***
OH, ***THANK YOU, JESUS.*** BECAUSE, I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SAY--
NO WORRIES. TAKE YOUR ***LIL PICTURE,*** AND THEN TAKE OUR ORDER, ***PAM.***
CLICK
GOT IT? WERE MY ANGLES HITTING?
OH THEY WERE HITTING, GIRL. YOU'RE ***A STAR.***
YOU EARNING THAT TIP, PAM. GO AHEAD. I LIKE YOU.
ENOUGH OF THAT.
ACCORDING TO THE ONLINE REVIEWS, THIS SPOT IS NOTORIOUS FOR ITS BUCKET O' CHILI.
HOW IS IT?
IT'S FIRE FOR REAL, OR "EHHH"?

HAWT!
YEAH? HOW HAWT? REMEMBER, WE BLACK NOW.
WE GOT THREE FLAVORS: GODZILLA, 3 MILE ISLAND, AND CHERNOBYL.
TAKE YOUR PICK, ANY OF 'EM WILL TORCH YOUR TASTE BUDS CLEAN OFF.
CHERNOBYL US.
THREE BUCKETS OF CHERNOBYL, COMING RIGHT UP.
WITH LOTS OF WATER. WE DON'T CARE IF IT TASTES LIKE WRUNG MOP WATER.
IF IT'S FREE, THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DRINKING ON.
YOU GOT IT.
SHE'S ADORABLE. SHE'S GOT A WHOLE LITTLE SUICIDE GIRL AESTHETIC GOING ON. I DIG IT.
HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO BET SHE'S FUCKING ONE OF THE BACKWOOD COUCH BURNERS WE'RE LOOKING FOR?
OH. MY. GOD. Y'ALL, I'M SORRY. PLEASE, FORGIVE ME, I DID WARN YOU I WAS A SPACE CADET, BUT I DIDN'T FINISH THAT ONE SCENE WITH FREDDY. LET'S GO BACK TO THAT--

YEAH, YEAH, I *DO COKE*. SO WHAT? AND? IF I TOLD YOU HOW MANY MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS DANCED WITH SNOW WHITE, YOU'D *NEVER* GO TO THE HOSPITAL AGAIN.
UNLIKE YOUR *PILLHEAD COUSIN*, I HAVE THE DISCIPLINE TO CONTROL *MY VICE*. *I STRATEGICALLY USE IT FOR PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT AND THOUGHT ENRICHMENT*. YOU THINK YOU'RE ANY BETTER WITH YOUR DEPENDENCY ON *HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUP*, OR THAT *VAPE PEN* YOU CAN'T PUT DOWN, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE IN CHURCH? *EXACTLY*. SHUT YO' ASS UP AND SIT THE FUCK DOWN.
INBRED MILITIAMEN HUNTING BLACK ACTIVISTS. WHO DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING IN *THIS ENVIRONMENT*?
ANNNNT. WRONG.
THAT *OLD PROFILER GUY* IN OUR GROUP CHAT--THIS GUY IS LIKE *THE OBI-WAN* OF *THAT SHIT*--MAKING A KILLING NOW IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS A JURY CONSULTANT FOR THIS *WALL STREET LAW FIRM*--
HE LOOKED AT OUR NOTES ON THE CASE AND CONCLUDED THE GUYS BEHIND THE DOLLS AND EXECUTIONS WERE *NOT* YOUR STANDARD ISSUE *CONFEDERATE COSPLAYER TYPES.*
HE-- AND AGAIN, I STRESS HE'S *THE BEST TO EVER DO THIS PROFILING SHIT*--HE SAYS THESE DUDES MORE THAN LIKELY ARE OF CONSIDERABLE WEALTH AND THEIR NATIONALIST BELIEFS, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE, ARE RARELY--IF EVER--OUTWARDLY EXPRESSED BEYOND A *SMALL, VIRGIN PUSSY TIGHT INNER CIRCLE.*

THERE'S SUCH A THING AS *A STRETCH*, AND THEN THERE'S SOMERSAULTS. ***THAT RIGHT THERE?*** THAT WAS ***SIMONE BILES.***
MAY I ASK HOW HE CAME TO THIS ***FAR-FETCHED CONCLUSION,*** SIR?
THE ACTIVISTS WEREN'T JUST ***MURDERED.***
THEY WERE HUNTED.
SORRY. ***MY BAD.*** THEY'RE ***NOT*** BACKWOOD COUCH BURNERS.
THEY'RE ***NEW-AGE WALL STREET RACISTS.***
HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO BET SHE'S ***FUCKING ONE OF THEM?***
THEY TRADED THEIR ***SHEETS*** AND ***BURNING CROSSES*** IN FOR TAILORED SUITS AND KEYBOARDS...
GET IT RIGHT.
PAM NOT FUCKING WITH ***EITHER.***
SHE STRIKES ME AS BEING ***DOWN WITH THE BROTHERS.***
ALSO, IS IT BOTHERING ANYONE ELSE THAT THE FLAVORS ARE NAMED AFTER A MOVIE MONSTER AND TWO NUCLEAR MELTDOWNS?
THAT'S NOT REALLY A ***CONSISTENT THEME.***
BITCH, SHUT UP.
...AND THIS IS WHERE THINGS GET REALLY WILD.

NO, I'M TELLING YOU. *I KNOW MY BODY,* AND I KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT--
AND THIS AIN'T RIGHT.
IT'S CHILI!
IT'S SUPPOSED TO GIVE YOU *THE BUBBLE GUTS!* WHAT'D YOU *EXPECT?*
THIS AIN'T THE BUBBLE GUTS. THIS IS *SOMETHING ELSE.*
AND HONESTLY, I DON'T FEEL *TOO HOT* MYSELF.
...PIXIE BITCH POISONED US.
PAM?! PAM WOULD *NEVER.* I'M NOT 'BOUT TO LET YOU COME FOR MY GIRL LIKE THAT. TIGHTEN UP BACK--

CRASH
SPACH
SHUNNK

BOO!

THERE SHE IS.
THERE'S OUR *SUPERSTAR.*

YOU HAD US WORRIED FOR A MOMENT, KAREN. WE DIDN'T THINK YOU'D WAKE UP, BUT ALAS, YOU HAVE RETURNED.
MR. BOJANGLES-- BE A GOOD FELLA AND GO FETCH THESE FINE LADIES SOME WATER. I'M SURE THEY'RE PARCHED. WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON BEING HOSPITABLE HOSTS.
MINUS THE HANDCUFFS AND ALL.
REGULAR OL' DISCOUNTED SUPERMARKET WATER.
YOU HAVE MY WORD IT IS HARMLESS. YOU'RE THIRSTY. DRIED UP. DRINK.
I DO BELIEVE YOU LADIES REFER TO YOURSELVES BY CODE NAMES, AND GOING THROUGH YOUR BURNER PHONES, WE'VE CONFIRMED THOSE SUSPICIONS.
WHIPLASH.
HANG GIRL.
THE IMPALER.

WE HAVE NICKNAMES, *TOO!*
I BE *SAMBO.*
"HE BE *MR. BOJANGLES.*
I *DINDU NUFFIN.*
"OVER DERE, DAT BE *STEPIN.*
'SUP, *MY NIGGAS.*
"*MR. JOLSON* BE TO HIS RIGHT.
WHAT'S *CRACKALACKING.*
"AND DAT'S DAT GODDAMN BOY DEY CALL *TAR BABY."*
YO.
JUST GET IT OVER WITH!
"GET IT OVER WITH?"
YES! DO WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE GOING TO DO TO US, BUT PLEASE, *FOR THE LOVE OF CHRIST, JUST SHUT THE FUCK UP ALREADY.*

"DO WHATEVER YOU'RE GOING TO DO"--OH.
OHHH! OHHHH! HA! YOU...YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO KILL YOU?
YOU HEAR THAT, TAR BABY?
LANEKA--I MEAN, WHIPLASH--THINKS WE'RE GOING TO KILL THEM.
SAD FACE.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO KILL YOU, MY DEAR.
NOT YET.
WE'LL LET A HIGHER POWER DECIDE THAT.
WE'RE ACTUALLY HUGE FANS OF YOURS, AND IF EVERYTHING WORKS OUT HERE, WE HOPE YOU LADIES CAN GET BACK TO DOING WHAT YOU DO BEST: KILLING THE WHITEYS.
YOU LADIES INSPIRED US. YOU'RE THE TALK OF ALL THE SUBREDDITS AND TELEGRAMS--DON'T WORRY THOUGH, WE HAVEN'T REVEALED YOUR IDENTITIES, AND WE WON'T...
...BECAUSE THE TRUTH IS, YOU THREE ARE THE EXACT WAKE-UP CALL THE MOVEMENT NEEDED.
FOR TOO LONG, THE MASSES HAVE DISMISSED YOU BLACK FOLKS AS AIMLESS SAVAGES. UNORGANIZED BEASTS, MINDLESSLY FUCKING AND SUCKING AND MURDERING EVERYTHING IN SIGHT.
NOT ME. I'VE LONG ARGUED YOU 13 PERCENTERS WERE AS CUNNING AND TACTICAL AS AN OUTGUNNED GERMAN GENERAL, AND TO UNDERESTIMATE IS TO LOSE.

FRIENDS LAUGHED AT ME, DIDN'T YOU, MR. JOLSON--
WE SHOLL DID.
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
THEN YOU LADIES SHOWED UP, AND SUDDENLY, THEY WEREN'T LAUGHING ANYMORE.
AND THE BIRTHDAY GIMMICK--BRILLIANT.
WE EVEN APPROPRIATED IT FOR OUR KILLINGS.
FBI
WILLIAM BRADFORD SHOCKLEY. FEBRARY 13TH.
HARRY EDWARD CRAMPTON. JANUARY 5TH.
PRESTON BROOKS. AUGUST 7TH.
MADISON GRANT. NOVEMBER 19TH.
DAVID WARK GRIFFITH. JANUARY 22ND.

HOW THE FUCK DID YOU FIND US?
GREAT QUESTION.
WE'VE BEEN AWARE OF YOUR IDENTITIES FOR OVER A YEAR.
THERE WAS SOME DEBATE ABOUT GOING DOWN TO THE GREAT FREE STATE OF FLORIDA AND ENDING YOU, BUT I SAID TO THE BOYS:
IF THESE GALS ARE AS SHARP AS I BELIEVE THEM TO BE, THEY'LL COME TO US. AND THERE YOU ARE.
THEY GOT LUCKY.
TAR BABY'S NOT DRINKING THE GRAPE KOOL-AID, WHICH I HEAR YOUR KIND LOVES.
HE DISMISSES YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS BECAUSE MUCH LIKE OURSELVES, WE KNOW YOU HAVE AN INSIDE MAN--WHAT'S HIS NAME AGAIN, MR. JOLSON?
AGENT FREDDY JOSEPH.
AGENT FREDDY JOSEPH. I BELIEVE HE'S DEIDRE'S FUCK BUDDY FROM MED SCHOOL. JUST SO HAPPENS AGENT FREDDY JOSEPH IS IN THE SAME FBI WHATSAPP GROUP CHAT AS OUR GUY. SMALL WORLD. BIG LOOSE LIPS.
SEE. THAT'S YOU.
LIVING ROOM CAM 1

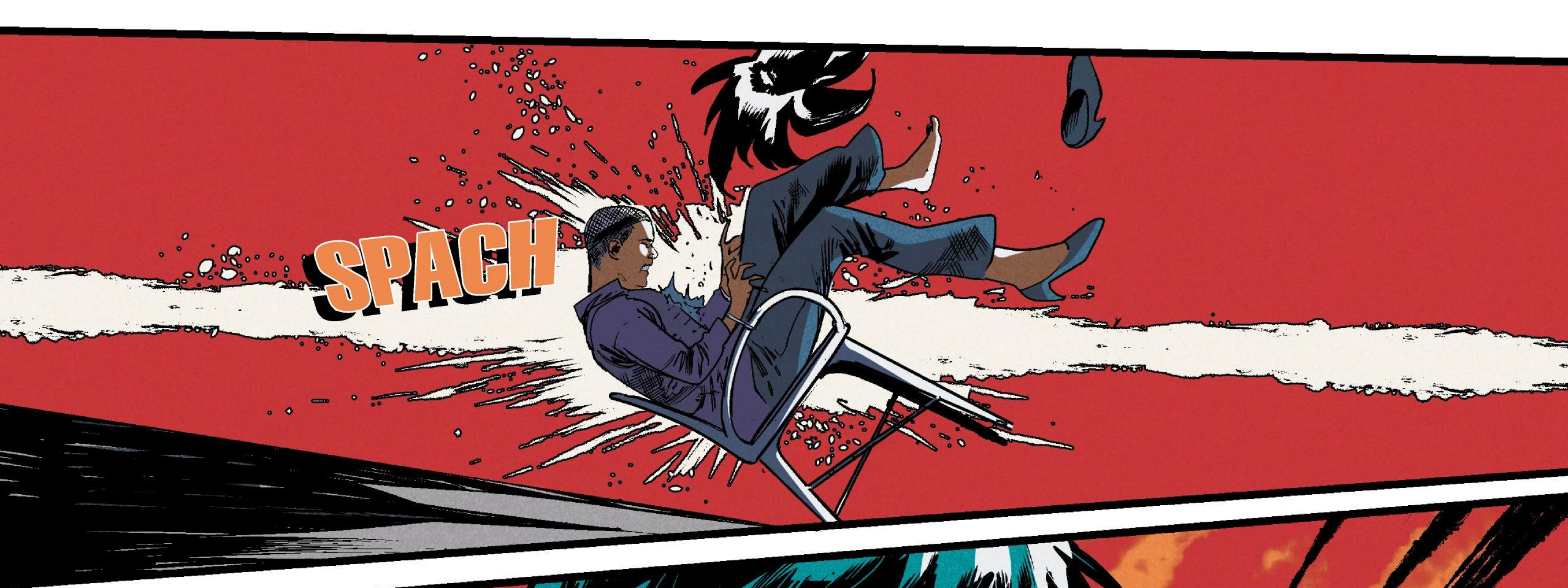
BEAUTIFUL PICTURE.
STEPIN OVER THERE THINKS AGENT FREDDY HAS BEEN FEEDING DEIDRE--MY BAD, HANG GIRL--HE THINKS BECAUSE AGENT FREDDY HAS BEEN FEEDING HANG GIRL TIPS, IT LESSENS THE BRILLIANCE OF YOUR OPERATION. BUT I DON'T TAKE ANYTHING AWAY FROM YOUR ASTUTENESS.
NO. THE INGENUITY AND INVESTIGATIVE PROWESS YOU LADIES HAVE DISPLAYED IS GRANDIOSE.
YOU THREE WERE SUPERIOR KILLERS. MISTAKES, THERE WERE NONE. NEVER WERE YOU NOT ON POINT IN APPROACH.
AND THEN YOU SLIPPED. OOOPS!

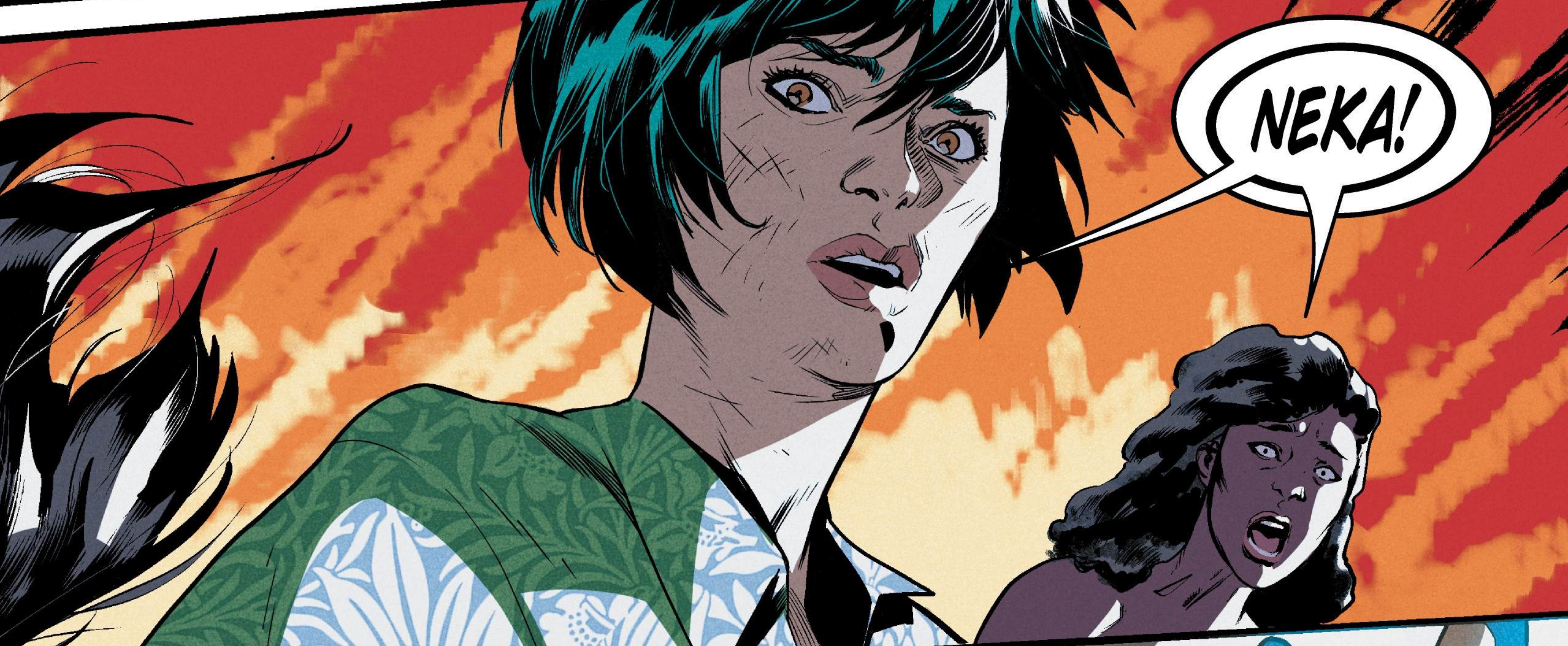
THE [NAME REDACT] KILL IN ORLANDO.
FOR SOME BIZARRE REASON--WE'LL CALL IT OVERSIGHT--KAREN...EXCUSE ME, IMPALER, BROUGHT HER IPHONE TO THE SCENE OF THE MURDER, WHERE IT PINGED MULTIPLE TIMES.
THE FRIENDS IN THE FBI CONFIRMED THIS INFORMATION FOR US.
ONCE WE HAD YOU, IMPALER--NICE NICKNAME BY THE WAY--EVERYTHING ELSE REVEALED ITSELF FROM THERE.
BUT LISTEN--
WE DIDN'T BRING YOU LADIES HERE TO GLOAT ABOUT HOW WE GOT THE DROP ON YOU.
WE BROUGHT YOU HERE TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO STAY IN THE VIGILANTE BUSINESS.
WE DON'T WANT YOU TO STOP.
OUR CAUSE NEEDS YOU.
THE MORE YOU KILL, THE MORE WE RECRUIT. THE MORE WE RECRUIT--THE CLOSER WE GET TO THE LONG OVERDUE RACIAL REALIGNMENT THIS CRUMBLING NATION DESERVES.
YOUR KIND GOES BACK TO WHERE THEY BELONG, AND THE GOOD WHITE FOLK OUT THERE GET TO KEEP THIS LAND WHICH THEY SHAPED. CULTIVATED. TAMED. CONQUERED.
ON OUR BACKS.

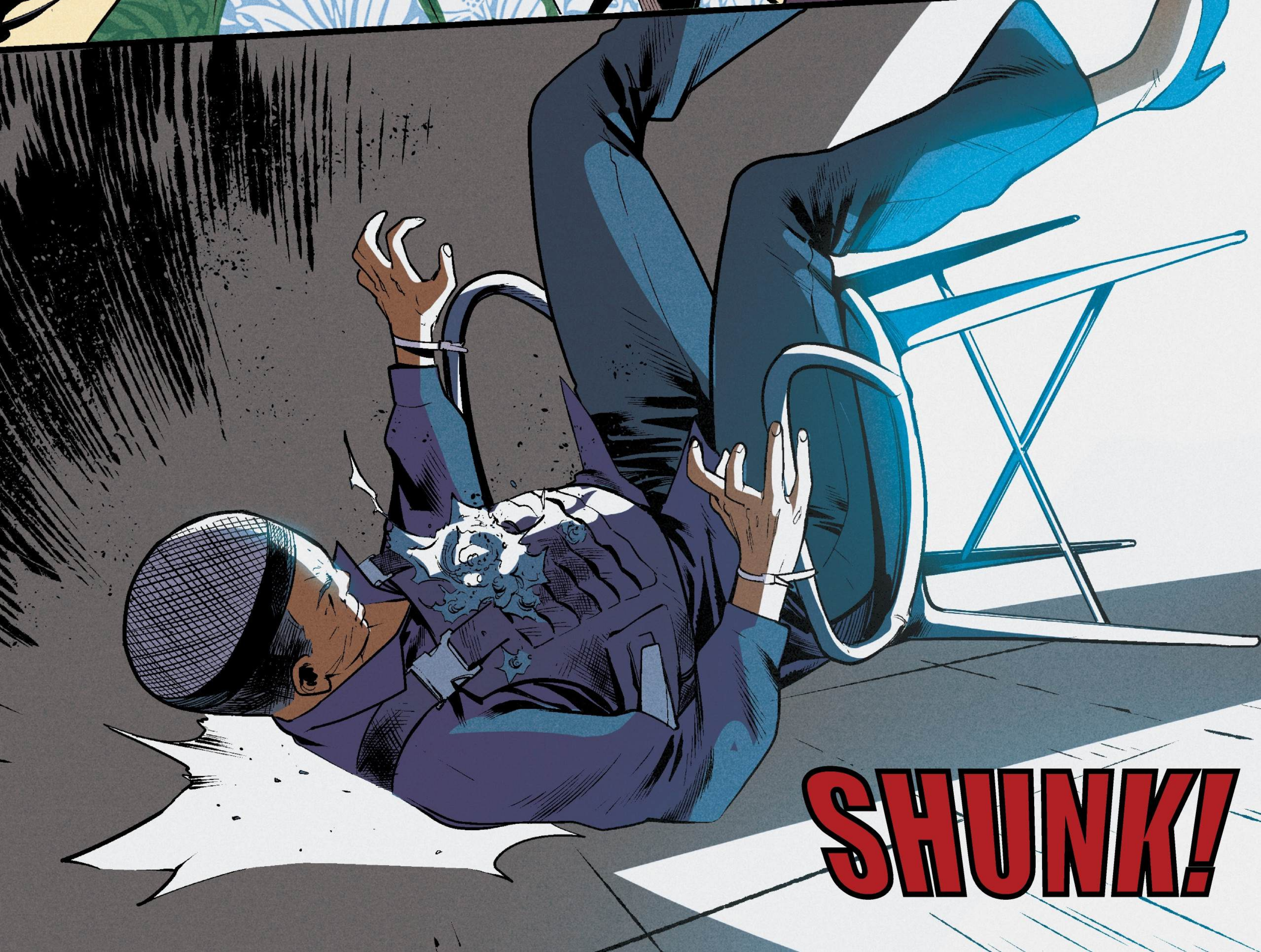
YOUR PRIMITIVE ***SPEAR CHUCKING CULTURE*** WAS, IS, ***ALWAYS*** WILL BE ***INFERIOR***, AND THAT IS WHY YOU ***ALLOWED*** YOURSELVES TO BECOME ***ENSLAVED***.
CLAIMING YOUR ANCESTORS PLAYED A PART IN BUILDING THIS ***GLORIOUS COUNTRY*** WOULD BE LIKE A COW TAKING CREDIT FOR BUILDING McDONALD'S.
YOU FUCKERS WANT ANOTHER ***CIVIL WAR***.
I PREFER TO CALL IT THE ***WAR FOR WHITE SUPREMACY***, WHICH IS WHAT IT WAS THEN AND EXACTLY WHAT IT WILL BE THIS TIME, BECAUSE MAKE NO MISTAKE, WHITES ARE ***THE SUPERIOR RACE***.
QUICK, NAME A SINGLE COUNTRY RUN BY BLACK PEOPLE THAT'S A ***SUCCESS***?
WE HAVE MATHEMATICS. SCIENCE. ENGINEERING. AND ***WHAT DO YOU HAVE?***
RAP MUSIC AND BASKETBALL.
IT'S ***TIME***.
A RECKONING IS COMING TO THIS LAND ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. WHY NOT BE THE CATALYST FOR SOMETHING GREAT?
BUT, BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, WE NEED TO PLAY A ***LITTLE GAME*** FIRST.
I TOLD YOU A ***HIGHER POWER*** WAS GOING TO DETERMINE WHETHER YOU ***LIVE OR DIE***. IT WASN'T ***JUST TALK***.

THIS IS THE WAY IT GOES DOWN: WE PUT THIS BULLETPROOF VEST ON ONE OF YOU.
AND THEN WE SHOOT YOU WITH THIS SHOTGUN HERE.
IF THE SLUG PENETRATES THE VEST, WELL, THAT'LL BE THE END OF THE ROAD FOR OUR LUCKY CONTESTANT.
AND AS MUCH AS I WANT YOU LADIES TO LIVE, PER THE RULES OF THE GAME, WE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO KILL YOU ALL.
IF THE VEST STOPS THE SLUG, THEN YOU'LL BE ON YOUR MERRY WAY BACK TO MIAMI, PICKING UP WHERE YOU LEFT OFF.
NOW IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE DONE THIS, USUALLY WE DO LIKE AN EENIE MEENIE MINEY MOE TYPE OF DEAL, BUT WITH AN AGATHA CHRISTIE TWIST. SO HERE GOES.
THREE LITTLE NIGGER GALS WALKING IN THE ZOO; A BIG BEAR HUGGED ONE, AND THEN THERE WERE TWO.
TWO LITTLE NIGGER GALS SITTING IN THE SUN; ONE GOT FRIZZLED UP AND THEN THERE WAS ONE.
LOOKS LIKE THE SPOTLIGHT IS YOURS, YOUNG LADY.
STEPIN, LET'S GET WHIPLASH SUITED UP.

DON'T YOU FUCKING TOUCH ME!
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA! HEY! ALL THAT HOOTIN' AND HOLLERIN' AND CUSSIN'. THIS IS HAPPENING.
ACCEPT IT.
MARKER. THREE TO GET READY.
VEST SECURED.
TWO FOR THE SHOW.
ONE FOR THE MONEY.
BLAM
ACTION!


SPACH


NEKA!


SHUNK!

SLAP MY ASS AND CALL ME SUSIE!
YOU SEE THAT SHIT? THIS BITCH FLIPPED FORWARD. WHAT?! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
SHE'S FUCKING DEAD. I'M TELLING YOU. NO WAY THE VEST HELD THAT BLAST. HAVE MY MONEY READY.
YEAH, YEAH, WHATEVER. GO CHECK ON HER. SIT HER UP.
HER GOTDAMN WIG FLEW OFF. HA! AIN'T NEVER SEEN NO SHIT LIKE THAT BEFORE.
YOU'D THINK SHE WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO AFFORD A SEW-IN.
FUCK. SHIT. DAMMIT.
WHAT-WHAT? SHE DEAD?
SHE GOTTA BE.
NOPE. I GUESS BLACK LIVES DO MATTER. BLACK BITCH LIVES.

SLUG DIDN'T GO THROUGH. VEST CAUGHT IT.
WHAT I TOLD YOU?!
BITCH DEFINITELY BUSTED A RIB. CONCUSSION FOR SURE. NO DOUBT.
PAY UP, FELLAS. I WIN. TOLDJA SHE'D SURVIVE THE SHOT. THIS IS DESTINY.
RUN ME MY MONEY.
WHILE THOSE BROKE BLOKES FIGURE OUT HOW THEY'RE GOING TO SECURE ME MY FUNDS, LET ME TAKE THIS MOMENT TO SAY WHAT A PLEASURE IT WAS TO FINALLY MEET YOU.
WE'LL GIVE YOU A MONTH TO START KILLING AGAIN. IF NOT, WELL...IT WON'T BE A BULLETPROOF VEST DECIDING YOUR FATE NEXT TIME.
DON'T LET US DOWN, LADIES. WEESA COUNTING ON YA.

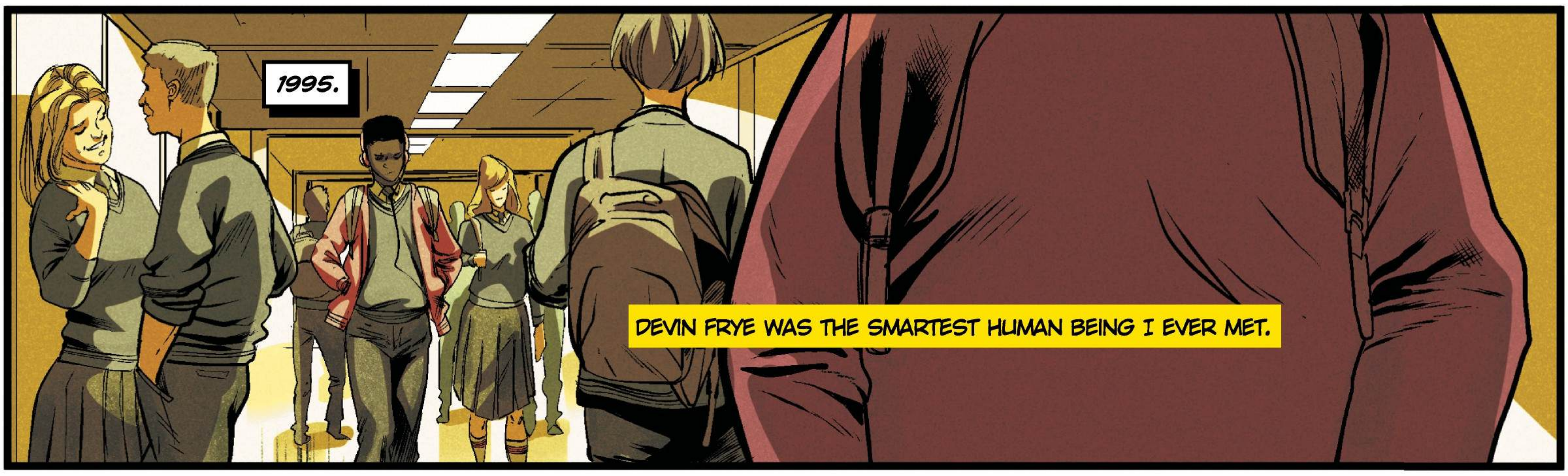
HOTE
P
P

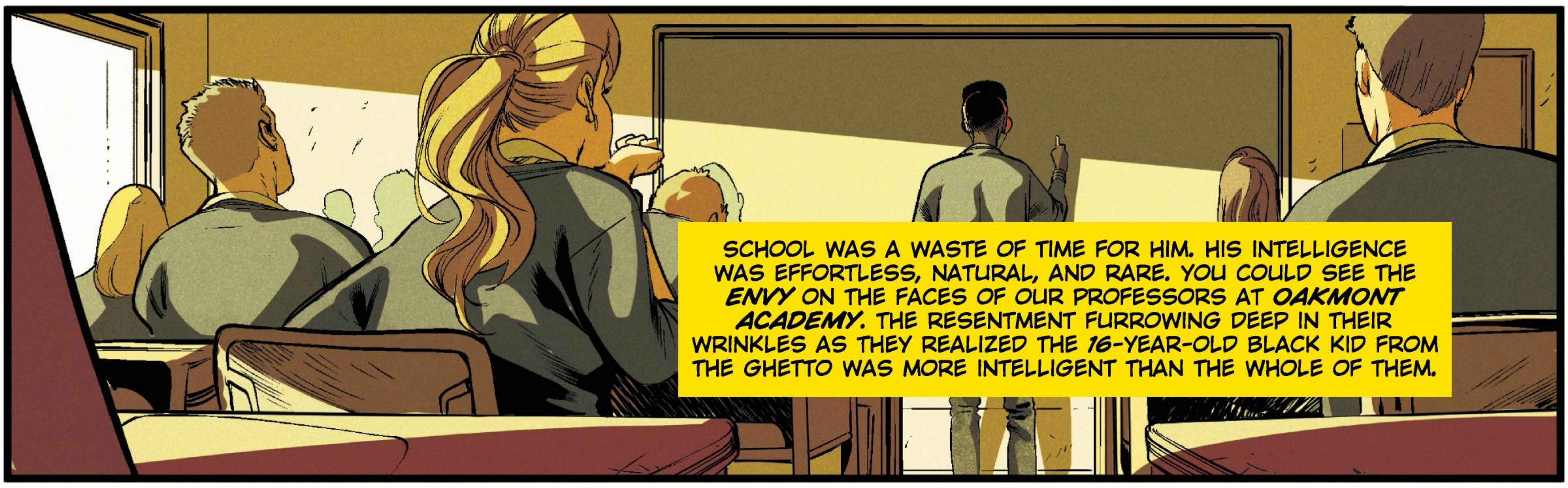
DIDN'T I WARN YOU ABOUT THAT *FUCKING PHONE?!*
♫"DON'T CALL ME NIGGER, WHITEY" BY **SLY AND THE FAMILY STONE** PLAYS.♫

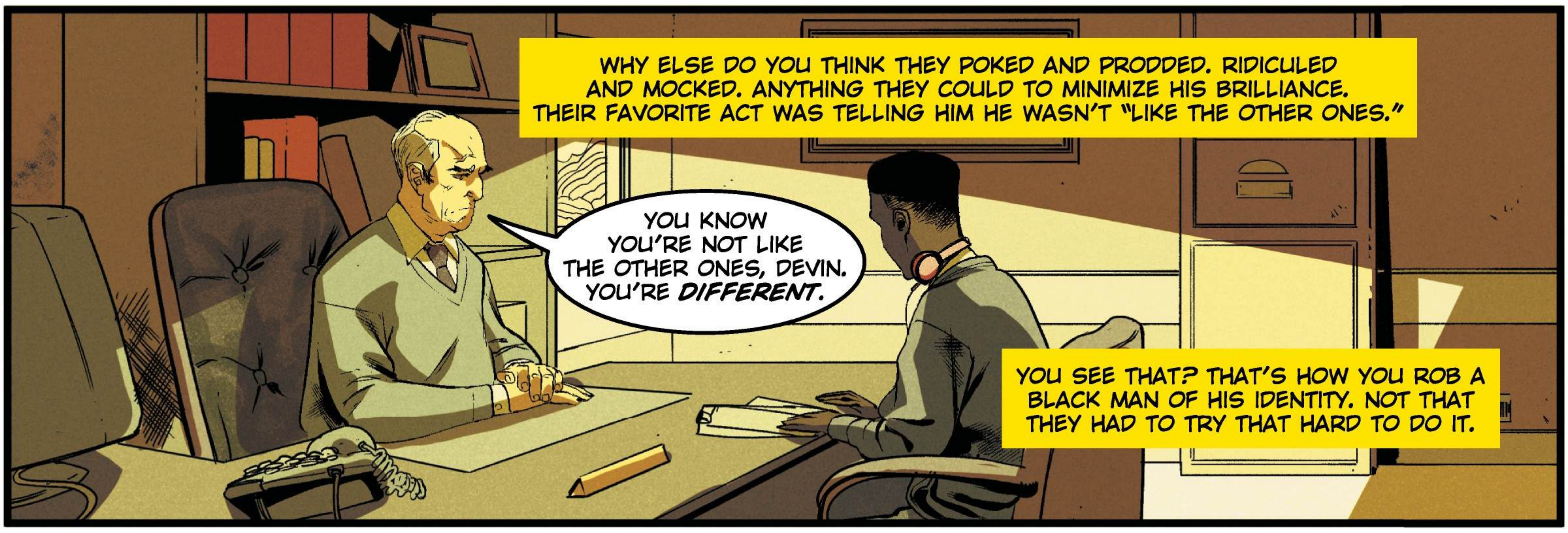
THEY CHOOSE
VIOLENCE

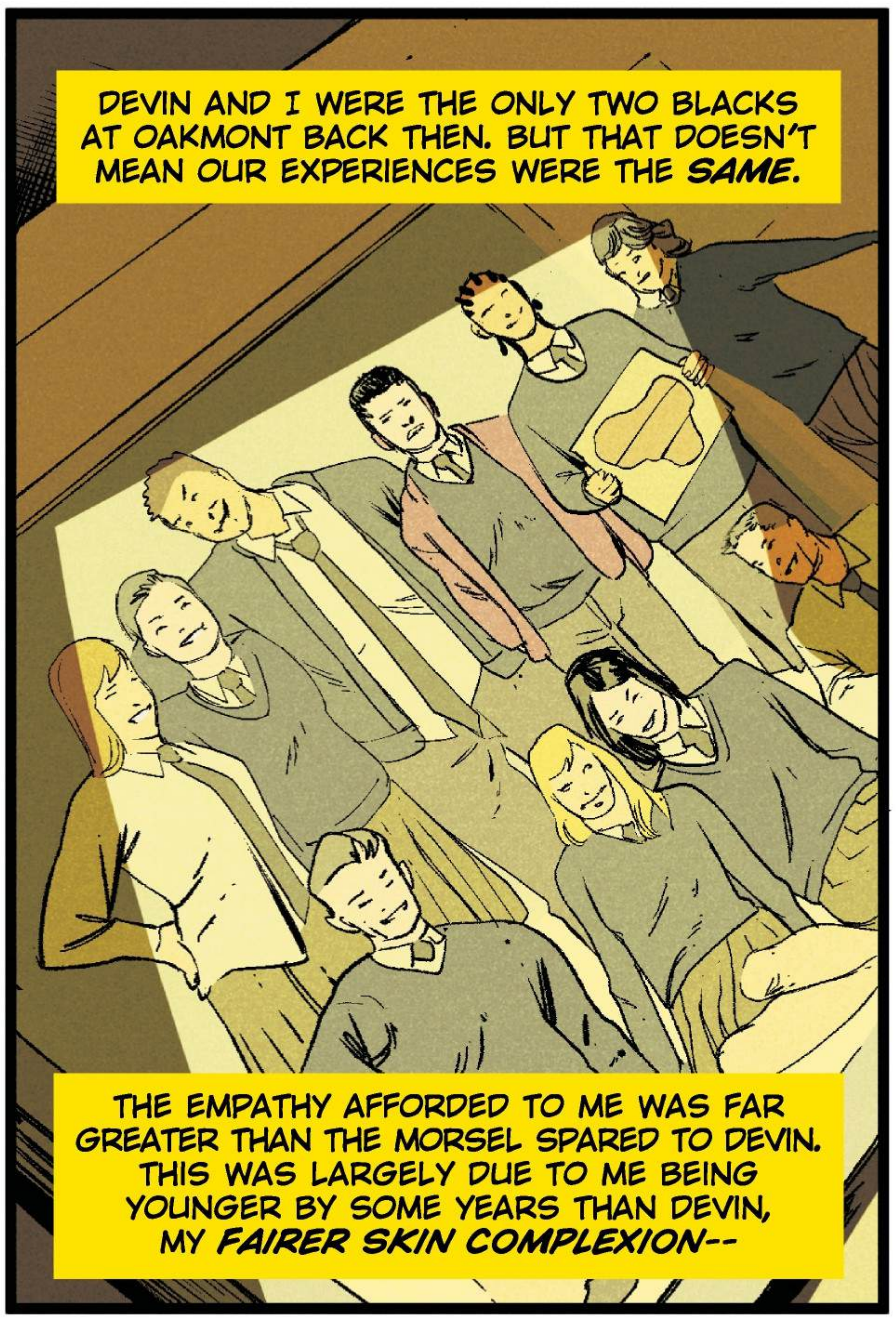
"We never shape the world.
The world shapes us."
— TONI MORRISON

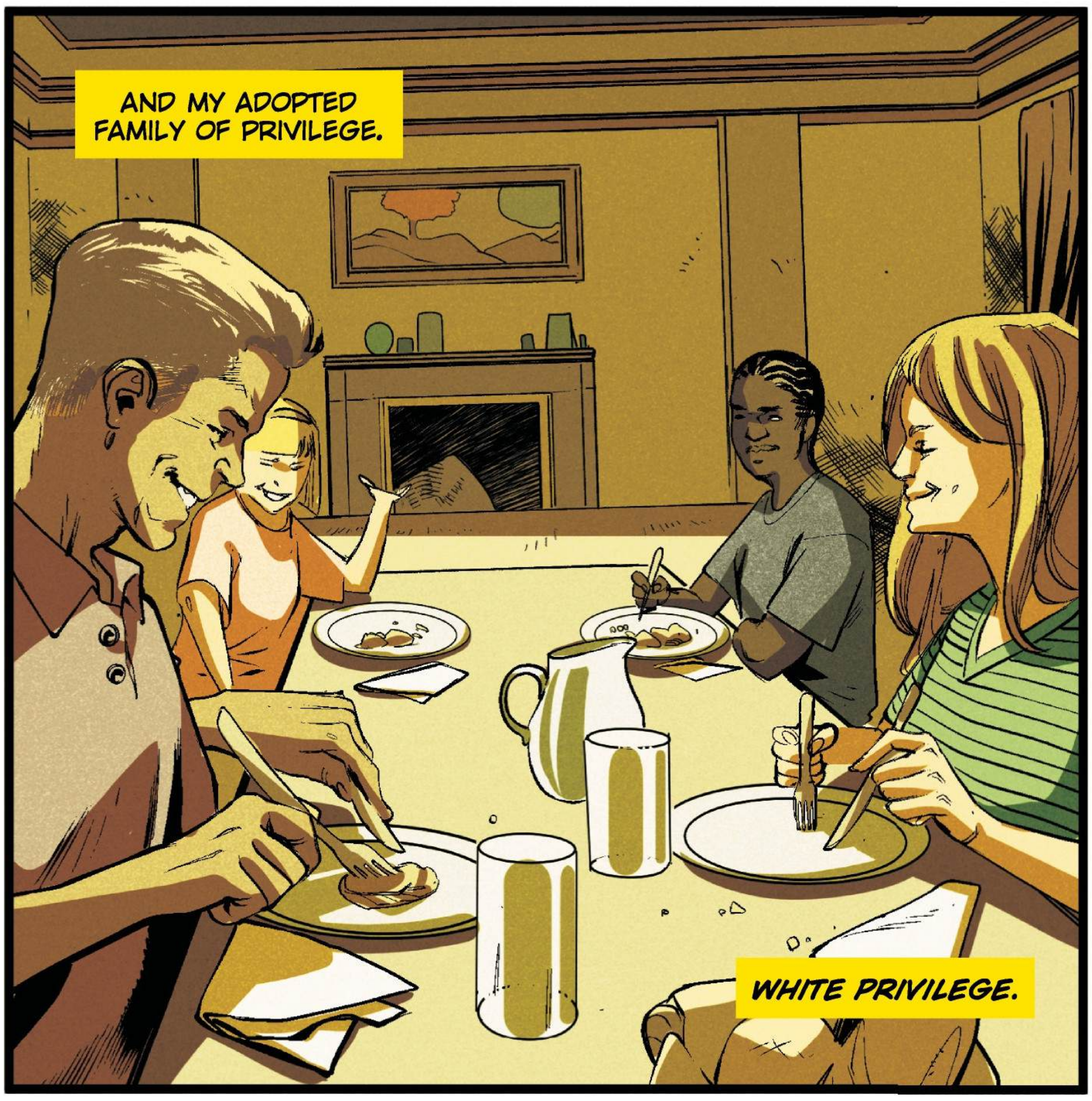
Chapter 04

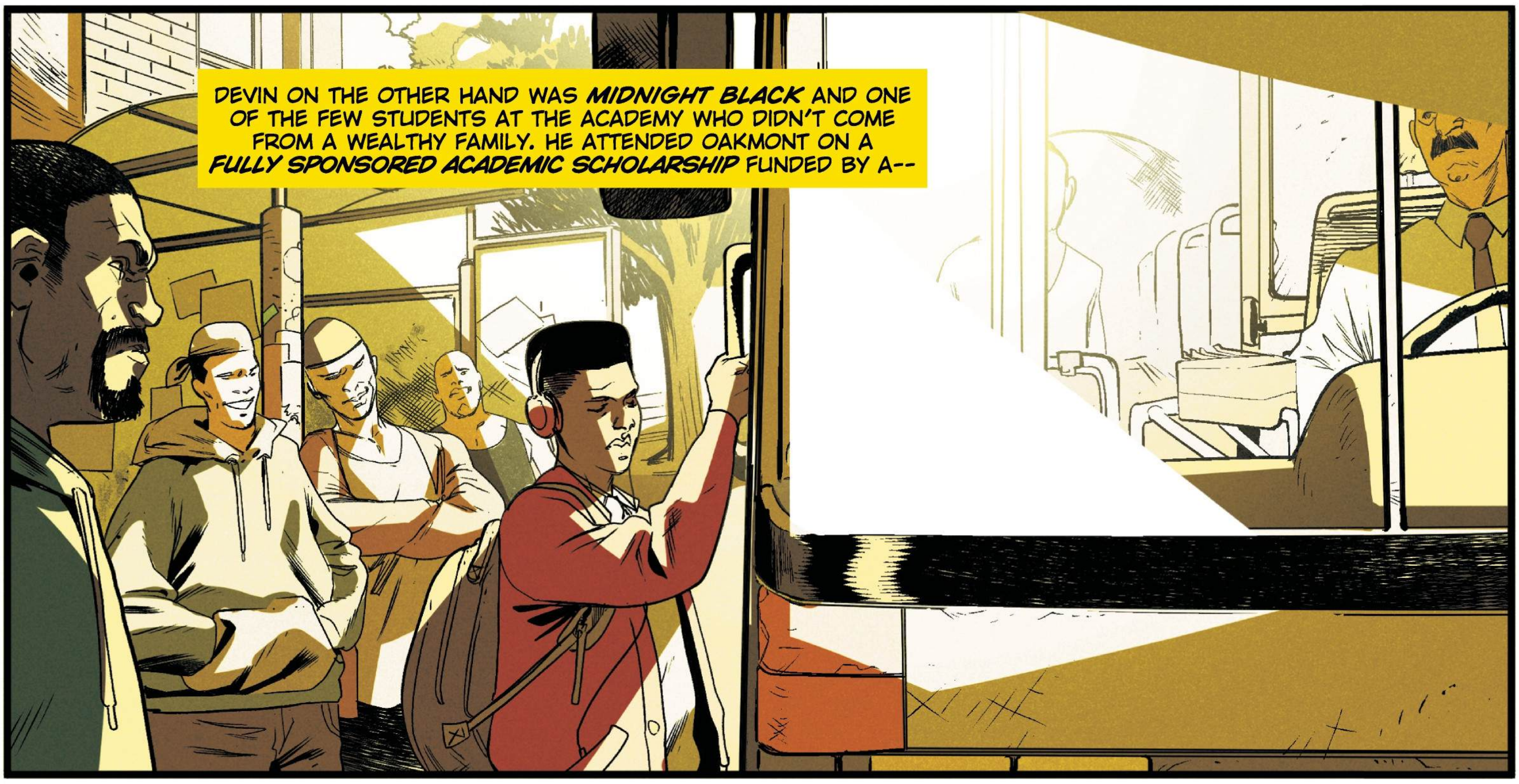

1995.
DEVIN FRYE WAS THE SMARTEST HUMAN BEING I EVER MET.


SCHOOL WAS A WASTE OF TIME FOR HIM. HIS INTELLIGENCE WAS EFFORTLESS, NATURAL, AND RARE. YOU COULD SEE THE *ENVY* ON THE FACES OF OUR PROFESSORS AT *OAKMONT ACADEMY.* THE RESENTMENT FURROWING DEEP IN THEIR WRINKLES AS THEY REALIZED THE *16*-YEAR-OLD BLACK KID FROM THE GHETTO WAS MORE INTELLIGENT THAN THE WHOLE OF THEM.

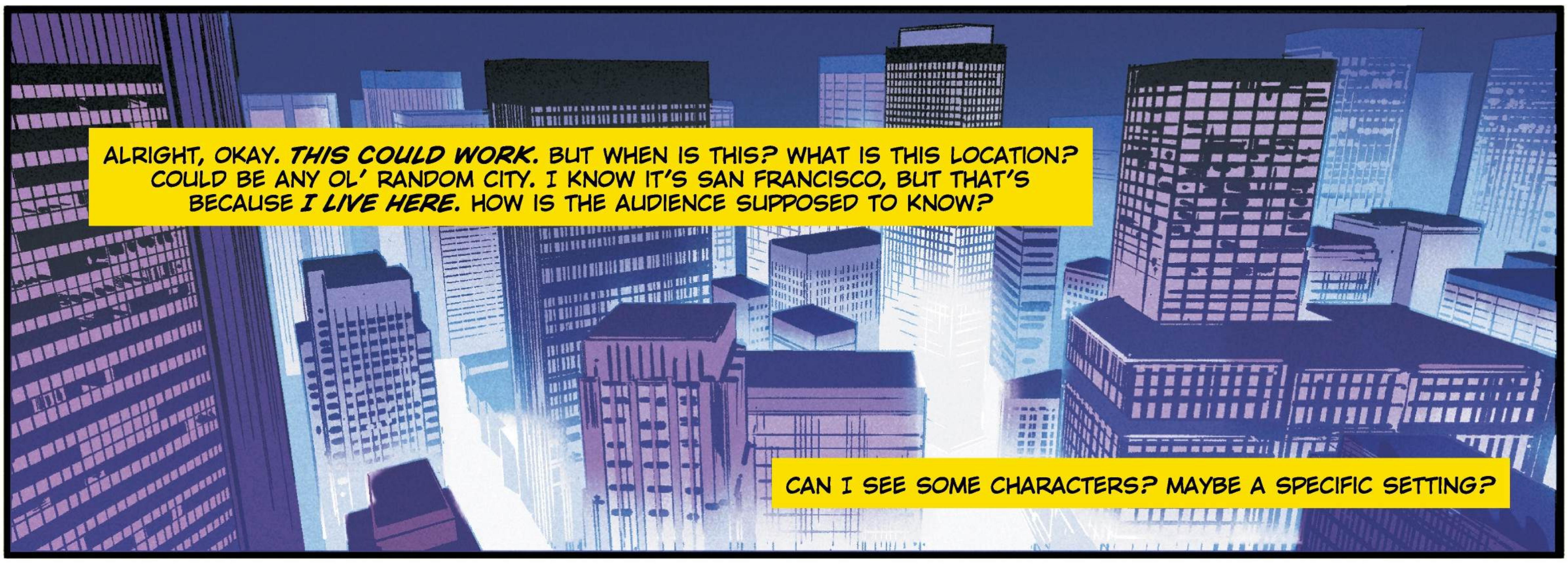

WHY ELSE DO YOU THINK THEY POKED AND PRODDED. RIDICULED AND MOCKED. ANYTHING THEY COULD TO MINIMIZE HIS BRILLIANCE. THEIR FAVORITE ACT WAS TELLING HIM HE WASN'T "LIKE THE OTHER ONES."
YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE OTHER ONES, DEVIN. YOU'RE *DIFFERENT*.
YOU SEE THAT? THAT'S HOW YOU ROB A BLACK MAN OF HIS IDENTITY. NOT THAT THEY HAD TO TRY THAT HARD TO DO IT.

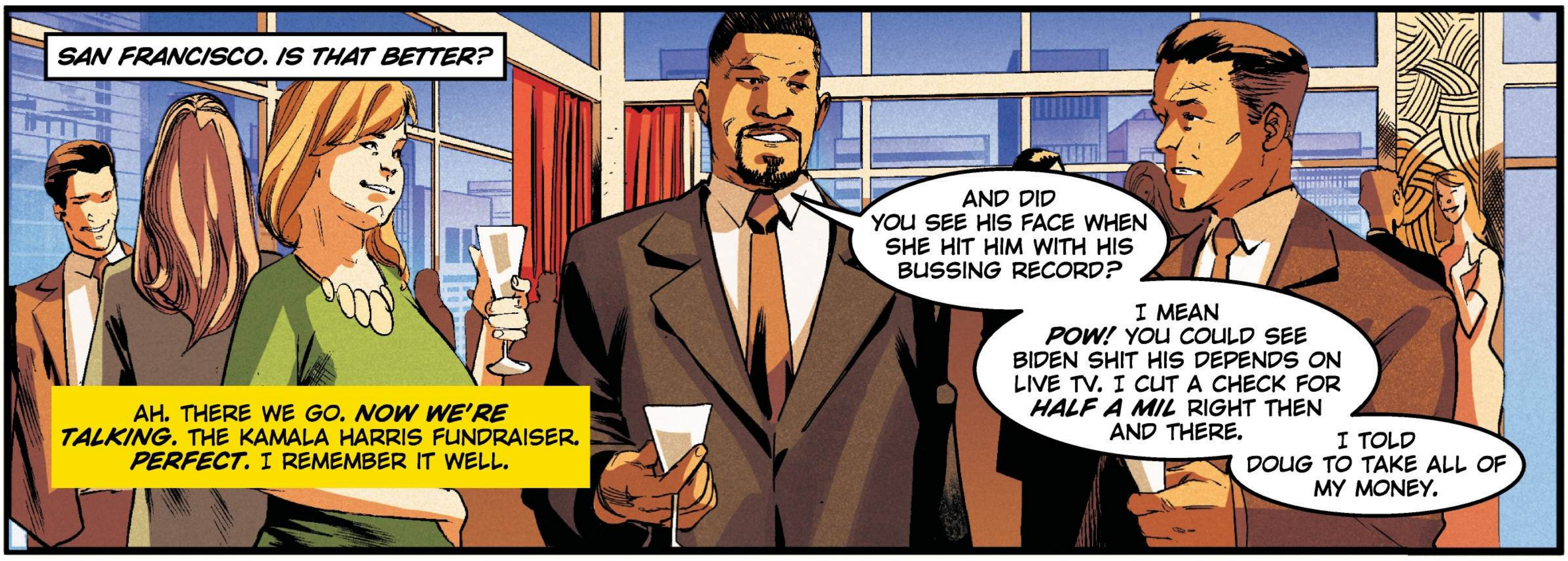

DEVIN AND I WERE THE ONLY TWO BLACKS AT OAKMONT BACK THEN. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN OUR EXPERIENCES WERE THE *SAME.*
THE EMPATHY AFFORDED TO ME WAS FAR GREATER THAN THE MORSEL SPARED TO DEVIN. THIS WAS LARGELY DUE TO ME BEING YOUNGER BY SOME YEARS THAN DEVIN, MY *FAIRER SKIN COMPLEXION*--


AND MY ADOPTED FAMILY OF PRIVILEGE.
WHITE PRIVILEGE.


DEVIN ON THE OTHER HAND WAS ***MIDNIGHT BLACK*** AND ONE OF THE FEW STUDENTS AT THE ACADEMY WHO DIDN'T COME FROM A WEALTHY FAMILY. HE ATTENDED OAKMONT ON A ***FULLY SPONSORED ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP*** FUNDED BY A--

ACTUALLY...YOU KNOW WHAT? IT'S NOT TIME TO TELL THIS STORY. ***NOT YET***. I'LL GET TO IT, BUT JUST NOT NOW.
LET'S START SOMEWHERE ELSE. LIKE THE ***BEGINNING OF THE END***.


ALRIGHT, OKAY. ***THIS COULD WORK***. BUT WHEN IS THIS? WHAT IS THIS LOCATION? COULD BE ANY OL' RANDOM CITY. I KNOW IT'S SAN FRANCISCO, BUT THAT'S BECAUSE ***I LIVE HERE***. HOW IS THE AUDIENCE SUPPOSED TO KNOW?
CAN I SEE SOME CHARACTERS? MAYBE A SPECIFIC SETTING?


SAN FRANCISCO. IS THAT BETTER?
AND DID YOU SEE HIS FACE WHEN SHE HIT HIM WITH HIS BUSSING RECORD?
I MEAN ***POW!*** YOU COULD SEE BIDEN SHIT HIS DEPENDS ON LIVE TV. I CUT A CHECK FOR ***HALF A MIL*** RIGHT THEN AND THERE.
I TOLD DOUG TO TAKE ALL OF MY ***MONEY***.
AH. THERE WE GO. ***NOW WE'RE TALKING***. THE KAMALA HARRIS FUNDRAISER. ***PERFECT***. I REMEMBER IT WELL.

OUR GIRL ROSE TO THE OCCASION. I KNEW SHE DIDN'T COME TO PLAY GAMES, BUT *HOLY SHIT*-- KAMALA SNATCHED SCALPS. SHE DID WHAT SHE HAD TO DO.
JOE JUST DOESN'T HAVE *IT* ANYMORE. HE *LOST HIS FASTBALL.*
DING
DING
I MEAN, DON'T GET ME WRONG -- HE'S A GREAT GUY, AND HE WAS AN INCREDIBLE VP, AND-AND-AND...
I APPRECIATE HIS DISTINGUISHED RECORD AS A PUBLIC SERVANT, I DO.
BUT HIS TIME TO RUN WAS IN *'16.*
THAT'S WHEN WE NEEDED HIM, AND-AND-AND HE PUSSIED OUT, I UNDERSTAND ABOUT HIS SON BUT HE *PUSSIED* OUT AND THEN WE GOT STUCK WITH A *FLAWED HILARY CLINTON,* AND NOW WE'VE GOT *MANICURED NAZIS* IN CHARGE OF THE NUKE CODES BECAUSE OF IT.
I'M IN YOUR CITY DADDY.
I NEED A NO NONSENSE MANDINGO FUCK RN.
DON'T MAKE ME BEG FOR IT.
EVERYTHING *OKAY,* WAYNE?
YEAH. YEAH, EVERYTHING'S *FINE.* I JUST... I JUST NEED TO CHECK ON SOMETHING REAL QUICK. TIE UP SOME LOOSE ENDS. *I'LL BE FINE.* ENJOY THE NIGHT AND GIVE MY REGARDS TO THE SENATOR AND DOUG.

𝄞SLOB ON MY KNOB/LIKE CORN ON THE COB/CHECK IN WITH ME/AND DO YOUR JOB.♫
I NEED THAT BIG BLACK DICK INSIDE ME. NEED IT NOW. I MISS IT SO MUCH.
DING
PULL UP ON ME, DADDY. I FLEW IN. I COULDN'T WAIT.
DING
MY PUSSY IS SCREAMING FOR EVERY DROP OF YOUR CUM.
DING
𝄞LAY ON THE BED/AND GIVE ME HEAD/DON'T HAVE TO ASK/DON'T HAVE TO BEG/JUICY IS MY♫ NAME/SEX IS MY--
GAME...
WHAT'S UP, NIGGA--
I'M IN YOUR CITY DADDY.
PULL UP ON ME WITH THAT BIG BLACK DICK.
I NEED IT RN.
Message

HEYYYYY, SAMBO.
DIDJA MISS US?
THIS *YOU*, BOO?
BOP!
I *KNEW* IT WOULD END LIKE THIS. SO MUCH SO I MADE *ARRANGEMENTS*.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU WERE IN A GOOD MOOD, **SAMBO.**
ALMOST LIKE YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE ABOUT TO GET SOME ***PUSSY.***
AWWW. YOU LOOK SO SHOCKED.
ARE YOU?
ARE YOU SHOCKED?
SURELY YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU ***WOULDN'T*** SEE US AGAIN, DID YOU? BECAUSE THAT WOULD BREAK WHAT LITTLE OF A PUMPING HEART I STILL HAVE.

WHAT DO *YOU* THINK, *PAM?*
YOU THINK HE LOOKS *SHOCKED?*
I THINK HE LOOKS SHOCKED.
42
OH, *WAIT.* YOU THOUGHT *PAM* WAS THE ONE TEXTING YOU.
YEAH, *NAW.* SORRY TO BREAK IT TO YOU, PLAYA. *THAT WAS US.*
NOT THE FIRST TIME WE'VE PULLED THIS TRICK.
PUSSY STILL REMAINS UNDEFEATED.
AND *HER COOCH* MUST BE PLATINUM ENCRUSTED, BECAUSE YOU GOT HERE *QUICK.*
WOW. YOU WANTED TO GET THAT NUT OFF. *JESUS CHRIST.*
42

THIS BITCH'S PHONE IS A TREASURE TROVE OF HIDDEN SECRETS.
JUST FULL OF REVELATIONS. LIKE THIS LIL WORK OF PORNOGRAPHIC ART WE DISCOVERED.
FUCK ME LIKE A NIGGER! GIVE ME THAT NIGGER DICK!
HOO-HOO-HOO!
"FUCK ME LIKE A NIGGER," SHE SAID.
THIS Y'ALL DIRTY TALK?
NOW THAT IS SOME FREAKY, SELF-HATING, SUNKEN PLACE SHIT RIGHT THERE.
MIGHT SHATTER YOUR EGO TO KNOW SHE WAS THROWING THAT PUSS TO YOUR LIL WHOLE MILITIA GANG.
EVEN FOUND A PIC OF A POSITIVE PREGNANCY TEST IN HER GALLERY.
BUT YOU CAN RELAX. YOU'RE GOOD. IN THE CLEAR.
SHE STRAIGHT UP TOLD US IT WASN'T YOURS BECAUSE YOU NEVER COME WHEN Y'ALL FUCK.
HARSH. SHAME WE'RE GOING TO KILL YOU, BECAUSE I HAVE A PHENOMENAL REMEDY FOR THAT PROBLEM. SO UNFORTUNATE.

HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU LIKE THIS, BUT YOU AIN'T THAT ***SPECIAL***, WAYNE.
SHE GAVE YOU ***RIGHT THE FUCK UP*** SOON AS WE COMMENCED WITH THE ***TORTURE***. LED US RIGHT TO YOU.
EVEN TOLD US ABOUT HOW ***THIS*** IS THE PERFECT TIME TO ***STRIKE***, SINCE YOUR FAMILY IS OUT OF TOWN, AND THAT'S WHEN Y'ALL HAVE Y'ALL YOUR ***LIL RACIST SEX RENDEZVOUS***. NOT ONLY THAT, BUT HOW A MESSAGE FROM HER RIGHT NOW WOULDN'T BE ***SUSPICIOUS***.
SHE TOLD US ***THAT***.
IN PAM'S DEFENSE, I WOULD ***SING-A-SWEET-RAT-SONG*** TOO IF THREE BAD BITCHES WERE BURNING MY NIPPLES WITH A CIGARETTE LIGHTER LIKE WE DID HERS, SO I CAN ***RELATE***.
HOW'D YOU KNOW SHE WAS INVOLVED?
I AM SO GLAD YOU ASKED.
ONE THING ABOUT ***DEIDRE***: SHE ***GON' REMEMBER SHIT***.
SO WHEN IT CAME TIME TO FIGURE OUT ***WHO THE FUCK KIDNAPPED US IN IDAHO, DEIDRE*** STARTED REPLAYING EVERYTHING IN MY HEAD--
I ***DOES THAT***. IT ACTUALLY GETS KIND OF ANNOYING AT TIMES.
42

"ANNNNYWAY, I REMEMBER THAT RESTAURANT. THAT FUCKING RESTAURANT WITH THAT FUCKING DELICIOUS CHILI AND THE FUCKING *PIXIE SUICIDE GIRL WAITRESS*--
"AND THEN I REMEMBERED-- I DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING OF IT AT THE TIME--BUT I REMEMBERED THOSE RED SHOE LACES IN HER *DOC MARTENS*.
THOSE FUCKING *RED SHOE LACES* IN THE DOC MARTENS AND WHAT THAT SIGNIFIES AND HOW SHE MOST LIKELY EARNED THEM.
"AND THEN THE OH SO SMALL, YOU'D MISS IT UNLESS YOU WERE LOOKING FOR IT *14* WORDS TAT CONCEALED BEHIND THAT OUTDATED FITBIT AND TACKY PANDORA CHARM BRACELET.
14 WORDS
"CAN'T FORGET ABOUT THE LIGHTNING BOLT BEHIND THE EARRINGS, WHICH SUDDENLY MAKES SO MUCH MORE SENSE *NOW*."

"OR THE NORTHWEST FRONT MAP ON THE KITCHEN WALL. I PEEPED THAT TOO."
"DON'T LEAVE OUT THE PART WHERE SHE WAS TALMBOUT HOW MUCH SHE 'LOVED MY HAIR' AND USED THAT AS AN EXCUSE TO SNAP A PICTURE OF US--

THIS THEM, DADDY? ALSO, I NEED YOU TO **FUCK ME HARD** TN. I WANT TO BLEED.

"WHICH SHE NO DOUBT SENT TO YOU AND THE REST OF THE ***MINSTREL SHOW*** TO CONFIRM OUR IDENTITIES."
YOU KNOW WHAT GETS ME?
THE FACT THAT OUT OF ALL THE FUCKING RESTAURANTS WE COULD'VE GONE TO UP THERE IN MOSCOW...
WE JUST SO HAPPENED TO GO TO THE ONE WITH REAL, IN THE FLESH, LIVING BREATHING ***NAZIS***, AND A BITCH THE MAN WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS FUCKING.
WHAT'RE THE ODDS OF ***THAT SHIT***?

MY CONGLOMERATE OWNS MOST OF *MOSCOW, IDAHO.*
"WE HAVE EYES AND EARS *EVERYWHERE.* WE WERE ON YOU FROM THE MOMENT YOU TOUCHED DOWN IN *BOISE.*
"NO MATTER THE RESTAURANT. NO MATTER THE HOTEL. WE HAD YOU *IN OUR SIGHTS.*
THEY JUST CHECKED OUT THE CAR. LET ME KNOW IF THE TRACKING SYSTEM IS WORKING ON YOUR PHONE.
OKAY, OKAY. THAT'S *COOL.*
SO, IT WASN'T AS BIG OF A CASE OF SERENDIPITY AS WE THOUGHT--*COOL.*
BUT CAN WE TALK ABOUT HOW THIS *BITCH POISONED US,* BECAUSE I'M STILL *NOT OVER* THAT SHIT.
I DIDN'T FUCKING POISON NOBODY, OKAY! IT WAS--

BLAM

Y'ALL HEARD SOMETHING?
NOPE.
NOT *I.* NOT ME. I AIN'T HEAR SHIT.
SOUNDED LIKE SOME ***ALTERNATIVE BITCH*** CHIRPING FOLLOWED BY A LOUD GUNSHOT, BUT WHAT DO ***I*** KNOW.
I BE ***HIGH AS SHIT*** HALF THE TIME.
UNNECESSARY.
NAW.
WHAT'S ***UNNECESSARY*** IS ALL THESE ***RACIST ARTIFACTS*** YOU GOT UP IN HERE.
YOU REALLY TAKING THE ***BLACK SELF-HATE*** TO ***EXTREME LEVELS.*** LOOK AT THESE ***THINGS--***
BETTER TO BE IN THE HANDS OF A BLACK MAN WHO ***REFLECTS ON THE PAIN*** ASSOCIATED WITH THEM, THAN IN THE HANDS OF A WHITE MAN WHO ***CELEBRATES IT.***

I'M **SO CONFUSED** RIGHT NOW.
ARE YOU WITH THE SHITS OR NOT? I'MMA NEED YOU TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND, **WAYNE.**
I'M **NOT** WHO YOU THINK I AM.
WE KNOW **EXACTLY** WHO THE FUCK YOU ARE, **WAYNE.**
YOU AIN'T **FOOLING** NO-BODIES, WAYNE. BUT I STILL GOTS SOME QUESTIONS. SO, SO MANY **QUESTIONS.**
AND I, AN **ARSENAL** OF **ANSWERS** YOU WON'T **LIKE.**
LET US DECIDE THAT SHIT.
OOPS.

SEE *THAT?* SEE THAT RIGHT THERE? THAT GLINT IN YOUR EYE. THAT *GLEAM*--THAT QUICK LITTLE, INNOCUOUS SHINE--
I KNOW *THAT LOOK.* I SEEN IT BEFORE.
THAT'S YOU WONDERING--THINKING--FIGURING--PONDERING--PLOTTING--*HOW THE FUCK* AM I GONNA GET OUT OF THIS?
AND *THIS*--
THIS LOOK RIGHT HERE--IS THIS BITCH TELLING YOU THAT *WON'T BE HAPPENING, JACK.*
SEE *NOW*--
NOW YOUR THOUGHTS ARE SHIFTING TO THE REST OF *THE BLACKFACE CREW.*
"ARE MY BANNERMEN ALIVE?" DANCES A THOUGHT. THOUGH *FAR FETCHED,* COULD THEY POSSIBLY COME RUNNING THROUGH THE DOORS TO SAVE ME, THE CAPTIVE INTERNALLY BROODS.
42
NOT HAPPENING, SIR.
MATTER OF FACT--
THEM--
IS *DEAD*.
21 GRAMS LESS. *THE EACH OF THEM.* DID THE DEEDS RIGHT BEFORE WE PULLED UP ON *YOU*.
ROLL CALL!

STEPIN.
GONE AS FUCK.

TAR BABY.
BLOWTORCH DID WORK.
FO

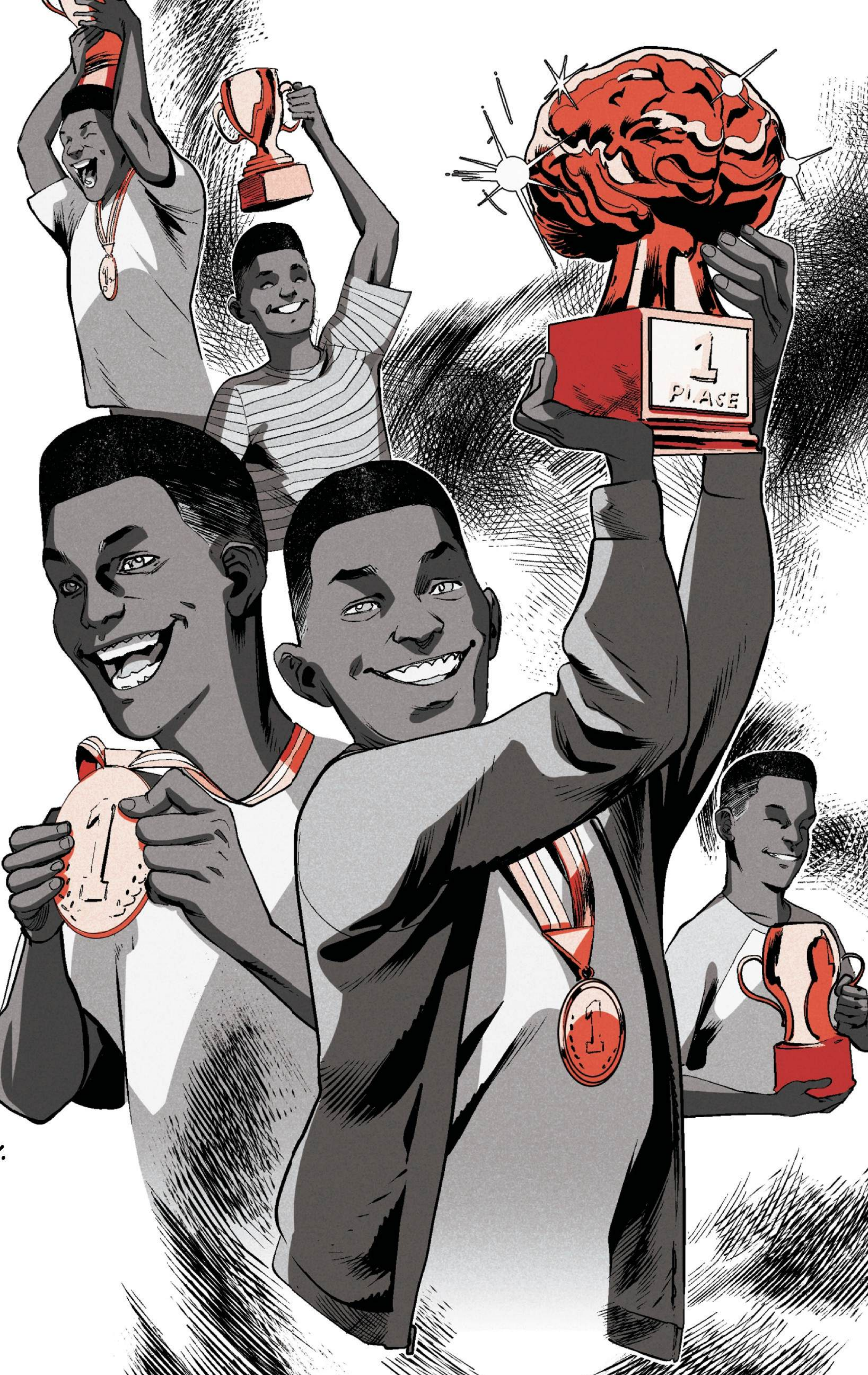
MR. JOLSON.
SCREAMED FOR HIS MAMMY.

MR. BOJANGLES.
WITH AN OINK-OINK-HERE AND AN OINK-OINK-THERE. HERE AN OINK, THERE AN OINK, EVERYWHERE AN OINK-OINK!

DEAD PIXIE SUICIDE GIRL GAVE US THE RUNDOWN ON Y'ALLS WHOLE LIL OPERATION.
NAMES. ADDY'S. SCHEDULES. THAT'S HOW WE DID IT.
THE LOGISTICS, THOUGH--MOTHERFUCKING NEBULA. AN OFFICIAL BEEYOTCH TO COORDINATE--
42
3 STATES, 2 COASTS. 3 TIME ZONES. ALL IN 18 HOURS.
"PLANES--
"TRAINS--
"AUTOMOBILES--"
A GEM OF A FILM.
"A SWARM OF AIRBNBS SECURED WITH BOT ACCOUNTS--"

AN *OBSCENE* AMOUNT OF RED BULL MIXED WITH FOUR LOKO--
SOME ***AUTHENTIC BOLIVIAN COCA LEAVES*** DEIDRE BLESSED US WITH--
WE DID THAT SHIT.
ACTUALLY, ***THEY*** DID ***THAT SHIT***. THE MURDERING PART. I WAS ON KIDNAPPING, BABYSITTING DUTY, WITH ***LEAKY***--
THE GIRLS DON'T KNOW THIS, BUT I GOT A SECRET ***ONLYFANS PAGE.*** TITTY AND PUSSY PICS ONLY. ***NO FACE NO CASE.*** 67 SUBSCRIBERS SO FAR. BE HONEST: IS MY SHIT WORTH ***$5.99*** A MONTH, OR SHOULD I CHARGE MORE?
YOU'RE OUR ***LAST STOP.***

LOOK--YOU **KNOW** HOW THIS IS GOING TO **END.**
I **KNOW PRECISELY** HOW IT ENDS.
WITH MY WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN RETURNING FROM VACATION AND FINDING **WHAT'S LEFT OF ME.**
GOD DAMN MOTHERFUCKING RIGHT.
BUT BEFORE WE REDUCE YOU TO AN **UNRECOGNIZABLE NOTHINGNESS**--CURIOSITY BECKONS. WE WANT TO KNOW **YOUR STORY.**
AND TELL IT GOOD. **THE RIGHT WAY.**
WE WANT **DETAILS.** IF YOU CAPTIVATE US, MAYBE WE TAKE IT EASY ON YOU IN YOUR TRANSITION.
MAYBE.
OH, AND **OOPS.**
CRASH
HOW ABOUT IT? GOT TIME TO TELL A **VILLAIN ORIGIN STORY** FOR SOME SISTAS?
NOW IT'S TIME TO TELL **THE DEVIN STORY.**



DEVIN AND I WERE THE TWO ***TOKEN BLACK STUDENTS*** AT THE HISTORICALLY ***ALL-WHITE*** OAKMONT BRIDGE ACADEMY. WHILE I WAS ***LIGHT SKINNED-HIGH YELLA*** AND ***SMART,*** DEVIN WAS ABYSS BLACK AND ***BEYOND BRILLIANT.*** THAT'S WHAT MADE HIM SO ***DANGEROUS*** TO THEM.

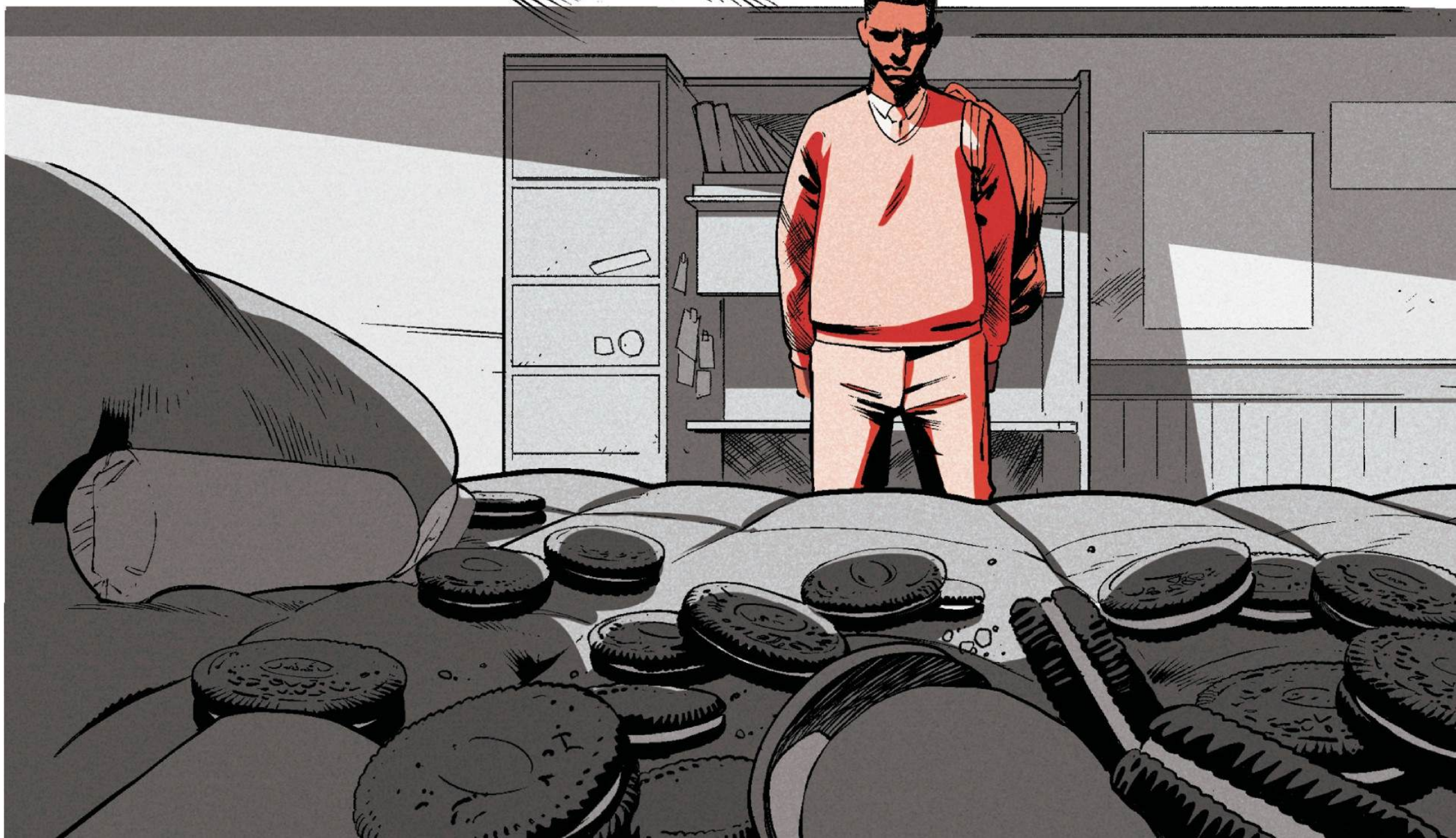
A COMBINATION OF HEAVY MELANIN IN THE SKIN AND ***DOMINANT INTELLIGENCE*** IS A THREAT TO THE ***FRAGILE WHITE PSYCHE'S SENSE OF ENTITLEMENT AND DOMINION.***

WHEN YOU'RE A ***GUEST IN THE WHITE SPACE,*** AS DEVIN AND I WERE AT OAKMONT, HOW DARE YOU BE ANYTHING OTHER THAN ***HUMBLE AND OBEDIENT.***

DEVIN WAS ***NEITHER.***

HE FLEXED HIS ***INTELLECTUAL SUPREMACY.*** MADE IT CLEAR TO EVERYONE THERE WAS ***NO COMPETITION.*** WHEN IT CAME TO INTELLECT, HE WAS ***WITHOUT PEER.***

SO THEY DID THE ONLY THING THEY COULD DO. ***THEY MINIMIZED HIM.*** MOSTLY, THEY CHALLENGED HIS IDENTITY AS A BLACK MAN, CASTING HIM AS AN ***OUTLIER;*** AN ***ANOMALY*** ALL BECAUSE HE DIDN'T FIT THEIR PROGRAMMED NOTION OF WHAT A ***POOR BLACK KID*** IN ***AMERICA*** SHOULD BE.



IT WASN'T MUCH EASIER FOR DEVIN IN HIS NATIVE OAKLAND. HE COULDN'T STAND THE PLACE. I NEVER ONCE HEARD HIM REFER TO IT AS ***HOME.***

AT OAKMONT, THEY CALLED YOU A ***GLOBAL CITIZEN*** FOR READING ABOUT THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION IN RUSSIAN. IN THE ***5-1-0,*** THEY CALLED YOU A ***FAG*** FOR THAT KIND OF ***INDULGENCE.*** WHEN THEY WERE LISTENING TO TOO SHORT, E-40, AND PAC, DEVIN WAS BREAKING DOWN THE WORKS OF ***JOSEPH BOULOGNE*** AND ***FLORENCE PRICE.***

HE WAS AN ***ALIEN*** IN HIS OWN BACKYARD.

AND SO THEY TOO ***LAUGHED AT HIM.*** THEY REMINDED HIM OF HIS ***MOTHER'S CRACK ADDICTION*** AND ***INFAMOUS MURDER AT THE HANDS OF A PIMP. MOCKED*** HIS GRANDMOTHER FOR WORKING NOT ONE, NOT TWO, NOT THREE, BUT FOUR JOBS JUST SO SHE COULD SEND HER ***UPPITY*** GRANDSON TO AN ***UPPITY WHITE SCHOOL*** A THOUSAND MILES AWAY BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT THE SCHOOL RIGHT DOWN THE STREET WAS ***TOO NIGGERISH*** AND NOT UP TO STANDARD.

IN TRUTH, ***THEIR LAUGHTER*** WAS A ***COPING MECHANISM*** FOR THEM TO MASK THEIR OWN INSECURITY AND ENVY. THIS ***UNFLAPPABLE, MAGNIFICENT YOUNG BLACK MAN*** WAS EVERYTHING THEY WERE TOLD ***THEY COULD NEVER BE,*** AND YET, THERE HE STOOD. RIDICULE WAS ***THE ONLY REACTION*** THEY KNEW. THEY HAD BEEN TOLD THEIR ENTIRE LIVES THEY WOULD NEVER AMOUNT TO ANYTHING. HOW ELSE WOULD YOU EXPECT THEM TO REACT THE TO ***CONTRADICTION.***

DEVIN ALWAYS REMINDED HIMSELF OF THIS. HE EFFORTLESSLY ***DODGED*** AND ***EVADED*** THEIR VERBAL SLINGS AND PERSONAL HAYMAKERS. HE ***NEVER FOLDED NOR WILTED.*** AND HE ***NEVER STUMBLED OR FALTERED.***

HE MARCHED FORWARD.
HEAD STRAIGHT. EYES AHEAD.
CONFIDENCE SECURED.
DEMEANOR ASSURED.

SCHOOL BUS
BE HAPPY
UP

ENTER ***JENNY SINCERE***. THE THIRD BLACK STUDENT AT THE OAKMONT BRIDGE. JENNY WAS THE NIECE OF OAKMONT'S CAFETERIA MANAGER. TO THIS DAY, SHE IS STILL THE ***MOST RADIANT WOMAN*** MY EYES HAVE EVER HAD THE EXPERIENCE OF TAKING IN. ***EFFORTLESS, UNRESTRAINED BEAUTY***. A ***VISION SO ELUSIVE*** YOU FELT AS IF YOU WERE STEALING EVERY TIME YOU LOOKED AT HER.

LIKE THE REST OF US, DEVIN WAS ***SMITTEN***. ***ENGROSSED AND ENCHANTED***. WHEN HE LOOKED AT HER, HE SAW THE ***FUTURE***.

MORTIFYING SHAME SHE DIDN'T FEEL THE SAME. DEVIN ***SETTLED*** ON A GRAND GESTURE OF GIFTING HER A BOOK OF ***PERVERT SONNETS IN LATIN***. SHE ***LAUGHED***. THEN SHE ***WENT IN FOR THE KILL***.

"I'LL DATE ***100*** OF THESE ***WHITES*** BEFORE I EVER FUCK WITH A ***NERDY ASS CORNBALL NIGGA*** LIKE YOU. WHO TOLD YOU A FUCKIN' BOOK OF POETRY WAS CUTE? YOU THINK THAT'S GOING TO ***ACTIVATE THIS PUSSY?*** YOU COULD NEVER HANDLE A ***COLD ASS BITCH*** LIKE ME. MONEY MAKE THIS ***GORILLA GRIP*** WET. NOT NO GOD DAMN JACQUES PERVERT ***--PERVERT--***WHATEVER THE FUCK. I SHOULD ***FUCK YOU UP*** BUT YOU LOOK LIKE ONE OF THEM ***QUIET, CREEPY, ONES*** THAT GET OFF ON ***THAT SHIT***. YOU'LL PROBABLY GO HOME AND JERK YOUR SORRY LIL DICK OFF TO GETTING YOUR ASS BEAT. CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HAD THE NERVE TO TRY MY ASS LIKE THIS THINKING YOU ON MY LEVEL. I AM ***DISGUSTED."***

SHE DIDN'T TALK LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME. SHE WOULDN'T DARE LET THE ***ADULTS*** AT OAKMONT HEAR THAT SIDE OF HER. ONLY AROUND US STUDENTS. IT WAS LIKE A ***"HOODRAT-CHICKENHEAD" COMBO BUTTON*** SHE'D PRESS ON COMMAND WHEN IT CAME TIME TO ***CLEAR SOMEONE'S SOUL***. THAT WAS JENNY SINCERE. THE ***ALPHA FEMALE OF OAKMONT***. THE CLOSEST THING WE EVER HAD TO ***A MAYOR***.

EVERYBODY LOVED HER. FACULTY. STAFF. STUDENT. IF YOU NEEDED IT, SHE COULD PROCURE IT. ***UNTOUCHABLE***, SHE ALWAYS SEEMED TO ***ESCAPE DISCIPLINE***, NO MATTER HOW MUCH SHE ***VIOLATED OR TWISTED THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT***.

EVERYBODY LOVED JENNY.

THAT ***UNIVERSAL LOVE*** IS WHAT MADE HER REJECTION OF DEVIN ***SO DEHUMANIZING***. I HAD NEVER SEEN HIM ***DEFEATED*** BEFORE THEN. IT WAS THE KIND OF ROUT SO CALLOUS, SO CAUSTIC, AND SO CUTTING, THAT ITS EFFECTS LINGER, THEN ANCHOR, THEN ***TRANSFORM***.

AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT DID TO DEVIN. CRUSHED, HE BECAME A DIFFERENT PERSON ***OVERNIGHT***. HE STARTED PLAYING BASKETBALL. LISTENING TO HIP HOP. ***SMOKING WEED***. THE POSTERS OF MARTIN LUTHER, MALCOLM, MARCUS, TOMMIE SMITH AND JOHN CARLOS CAME DOWN IN FAVOR OF ***SPICE 1*** AND MASTER P.

WHEN OAKMONT STUDENTS RETURNED FROM WINTER RECESS, WE NO LONGER RECOGNIZED HIM. YOU'D THINK SOMEONE HAD GIFTED HIM A BOOK WRITTEN BY A WHITE MAN ENTITLED ***"HOW TO BE BLACK."*** HE WAS A ***CARICATURE***. BUT IT'S THE IMAGE AND MINDSET HE EMBRACED. IT'S WHAT HE THOUGHT A BLACK TEENAGER WAS ***SUPPOSED TO BE***.

THOUGH DEVIN REMAINED ***OTHERWORLDLY GIFTED***, HIS ONCE EASY, DISARMING, TEFLON SMILE WAS NOW VACANT, ***REPLACED*** BY A ***CROSSED GRIMACE AND HOSTILE SCOWL***.

WHAT WAS ONCE A PREDICTABLE TOO SMOOTH RETREAT IN THE FACE OF ***INSISTENT TAUNTING*** TRANSITIONED TO AN OUTWARD DISPLAY OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE. DEVIN, THE CLOSEST THING I HAD TO AN ***IDOL***, WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND. A ***DETACHED, FADED*** MEMORY.

REJECTION HAS A WAY OF ***HAUNTING A PERSON*** NOT USED TO LOSING. ***IT SHATTERS***. IT ELIMINATES. WHO WANTS TO BE INVISIBLE TO THE ONE PERSON THEY MOST LONGED TO BE SEEN BY.

THAT'S UNREQUITED LOVE. ***POTENT. ALTERING. REMORSELESS.***

DEADLY.

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE SATURDAY MORNING THEY FOUND DEVIN ***HANGING*** FROM HIS BATHROOM DOORWAY. JUNE 1ST, ***1997***. ***SUICIDE. SO THEY SAID.***

I REMEMBER THE PRECISE DATE, BECAUSE IT WAS ***ONE WEEK TO THE DAY*** AFTER JENNY SINCERE ***LEAPT FROM HER DORMITORY WINDOW. ALSO SUICIDE***. TWO SUICIDES. BACK TO BACK. BOTH THE MOST PROMINENT AND WELL-KNOWN BLACK STUDENTS AT AN ***EXCLUSIVE, EXCESSIVELY EXPENSIVE WHITE ACADEMY.***

PLOT TWIST. THERE ***ALWAYS*** IS. BUT FIRST, A BIT OF BACKGROUND. THE MONTH PRIOR TO JENNY'S DEATH, ***SALACIOUS RUMORS*** HAD BEGUN TO PERCOLATE AROUND CAMPUS. A ***GANGBANG*** JENNY WAS THE ***SOLE FEMALE PARTICIPANT OF.***

EXPLOITED, AND OVERWHELMED BY THE CRIPPLING BETRAYAL AND GASHING DISGRACE ***ATTACKING*** HER WAKING BREATHS, SHE TOOK HER OWN LIFE TO ESCAPE THE ***SATURATING HURT.***

AS FOR DEVIN, THE NEWS OF JENNY BEING USED IN A SEXUAL MANNER BY ***THE SAME BOYS*** WHO TOOK PLEASURE OF ROBBING HIM OF HIS FACILITY WAS ***TRIGGERING*** ON ITS OWN, BUT ADDING HER DEATH ON TOP OF THE DEJECTION, WAS ***AMPLIFYING ENOUGH*** TO DRIVE HIM TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE AS WELL.

YEAH. ***SURE***. THAT WAS IT. THAT WAS THE ***STORY*** THEY'D TELL EVERYONE. SUICIDE WAS THE ONLY ANSWER THEY BOTH SAW TO END ***THE WICKED ECHOES OF EXPECTATION UNFULFILLED***. CASE CLOSED, THE DETECTIVES AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS DECLARED. ***END OF STORY.***

BUT I ALREADY TOLD YOU THIS STORY HAD A PLOT TWIST, ***DIDN'T I?***

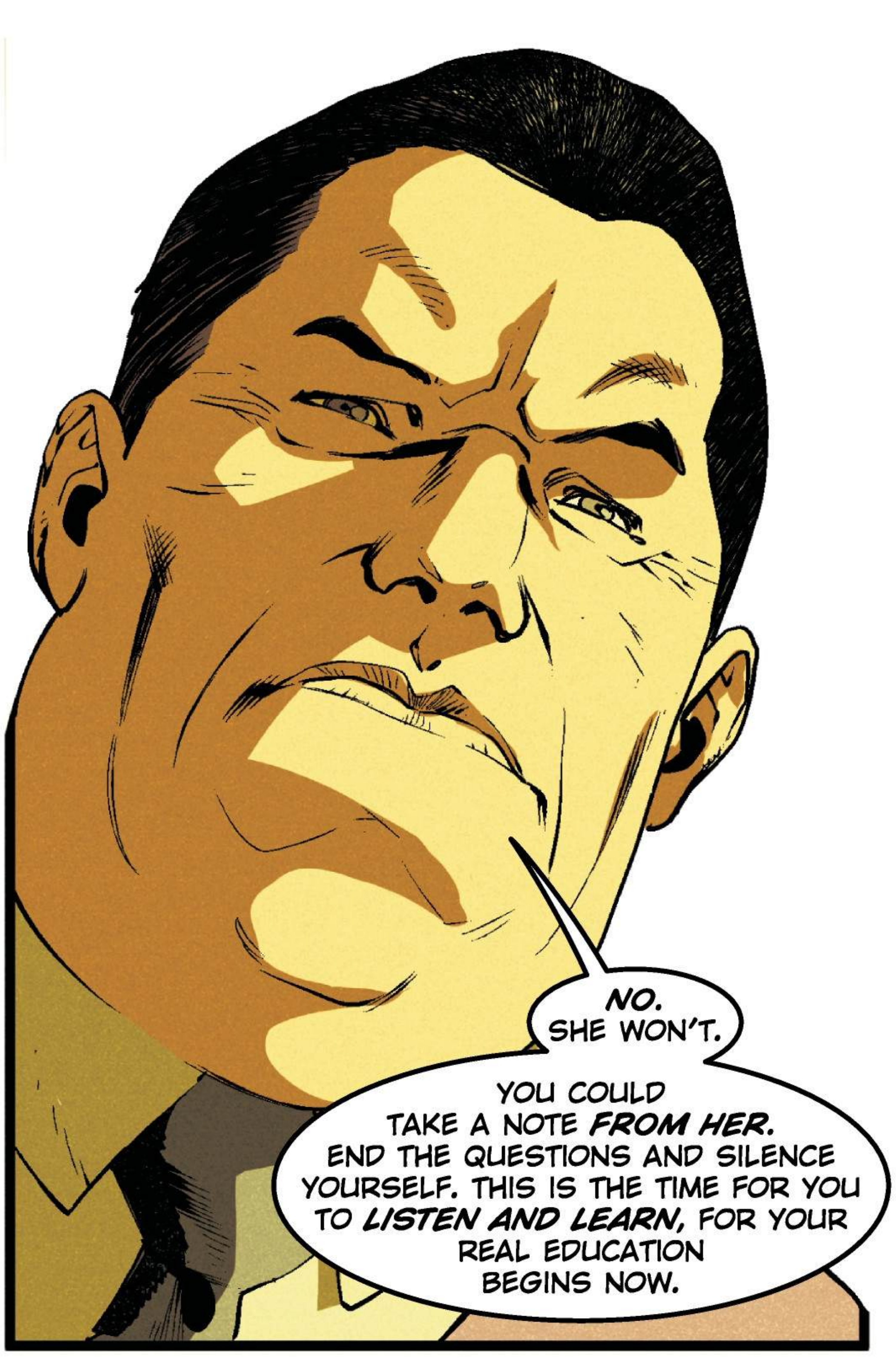
DON'T BELIEVE ME?

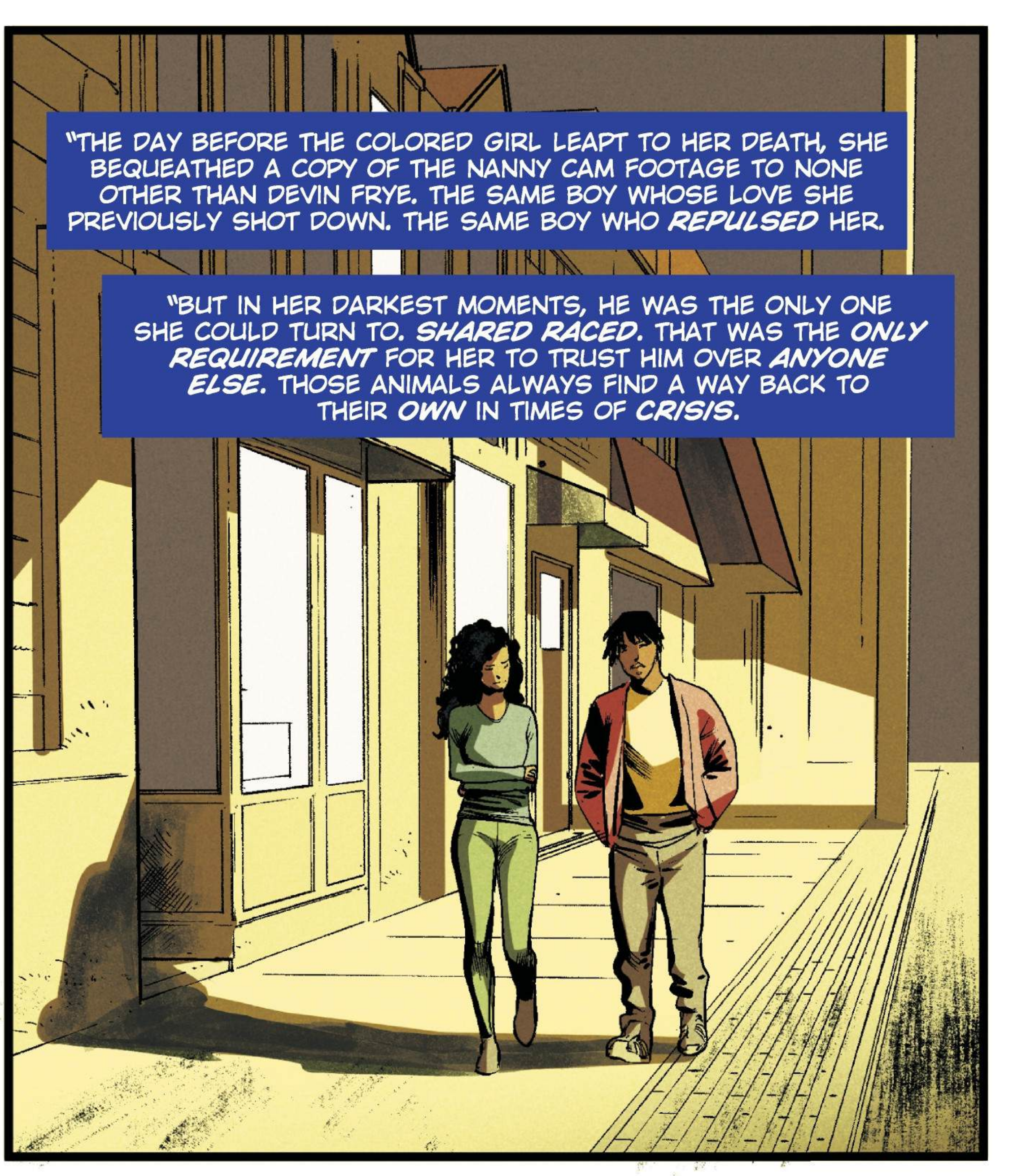
JUST WATCH.
HEADMASTER HAWKINS WILL SEE YOU NOW, WAYNE.
I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT A DISTURBING SIGHT I WITNESSED THIS MORNING. AT THE STUDENT WAKE FOR DEVIN FRYE, MR. SINGLETARY.
IT WAS YOU. SOBBING. TEARS ABOUND. SAD.
I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO EXPLAIN WHY?
I...
I LOOKED UP TO DEVIN, HEADMASTER HAWKINS. I'M GOING TO MISS HIM.
WAP
UHF!
I SHOULD EXPEL YOU FOR DISPLAYING SUCH WEAKNESS.

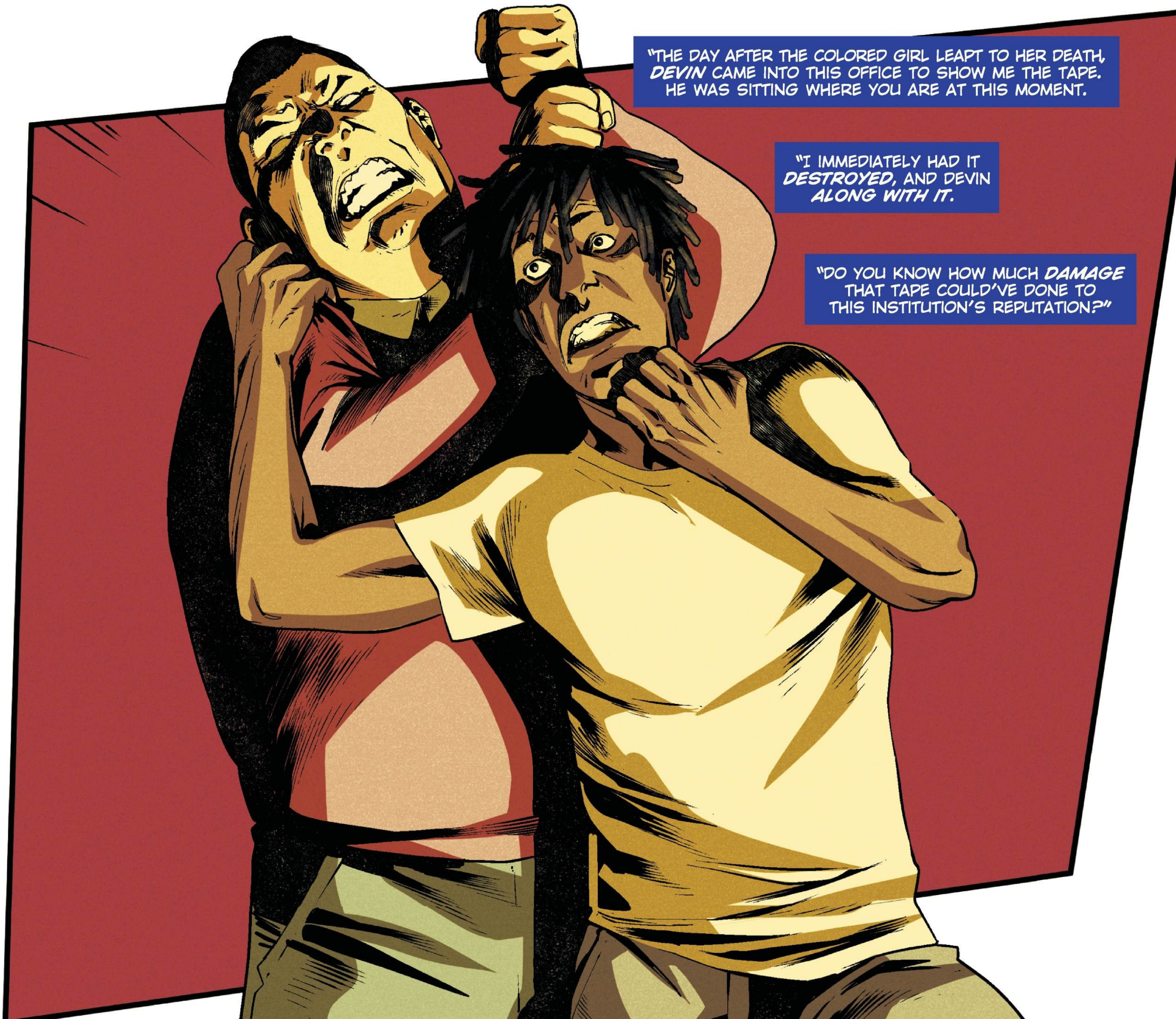
BOY WAS GIVEN EVERYTHING. EVERYTHING! EVERY BREAK AFFORDED. JUST LIKE THE REST OF HIS PEOPLE, AND HE THREW IT ALL AWAY.
DID YOU KNOW WE CAUGHT HIM SELLING REEFER AND ECSTASY? MULTIPLE TIMES ON CAMPUS. POLLUTING OUR COMMUNITY.
THIS IS WHO YOU SHED TEARS FOR?
YOU DEVALUE YOURSELF BY ASSOCIATION WITH CRASS SUBHUMAN FILTH.
GET UP! STOP YOUR BAWLING, BOY. MAN YOURSELF.
BUT DEVIN WAS JUST LIKE ME.
SMACK
HE WAS NOTHING LIKE YOU!
DEVIN WAS A NIGGER!
YOU, SHOULD YOU CHOOSE, WILL BE ANYTHING BUT.
AND JENNY?
YOU TELL ME, YOUNG MR. SINGLETARY. WHAT DID YOU THINK OF HER?
WERE YOU NOT PRESENT AT THE ONE-WOMAN ORGY SHE WAS THE CENTER OF?
SIR, I SWEAR!
I WAS THERE, BUT I JUST WATCHED. THEY STUFFED ME IN THE CLOSET BECAUSE I COULDN'T--

YOU THINK I DIDN'T KNOW?!
PLEASE, SIR! THEY TRIED TO MAKE ME, BUT I COULDN'T GET--
YOU'RE WEAK!
CAN'T EVEN GET A HARD-ON FOR A GOOD AND PROPER RAPE. THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR RITE OF PASSAGE!
YOU KNOW NOTHING.
NOTHING.
THE COLORED GIRL WAS DRUGGED. SHE WAS AN UNWILLING PARTICIPANT IN THE SEXUAL ANTICS OF THE NIGHT.
SHE REPORTED THE INCIDENT TO AUTHORITIES THE DAY AFTER.
SHE IDENTIFIED HER ASSAILANTS. ALL OF YOU!
DO YOU KNOW HOW SHE WAS ABLE TO DO SO?

"THE COLORED GIRL'S ROOMMATE HAD BEEN *BULLYING* HER. THE INCIDENTS WERE RELAYED TO CAMPUS SECURITY, WHICH WE OF COURSE, *IGNORED.* YOU REALLY THINK WE WOULD PUNISH A *LEGACY STUDENT* WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO BE THE DAUGHTER OF A *SITTING U.S. SENATOR?*
"WE DISMISSED HER CLAIMS AS PARANOIA AND PROMISED HER A TRANSFER TO ANOTHER ROOM AT SEMESTER'S END, BUT THAT *WASN'T ENOUGH.*
"BUT THE COLORED GIRL JUST HAD TO BE RIGHT AND MAKE HER LITTLE POINT. *CLEVER LITTLE THING* THAT SHE *WAS* INSTALLED A NANNY CAM IN HER ROOM--
"A NANNY CAM WHICH WAS *ON* AND CAPTURED THE *ENTIRETY OF HER RAPE--"*
THANKFULLY A HIGH-RANKING ALUM KIBOSHED HER POLICE REPORT ON THE ACADEMY'S BEHALF. IF IT WEREN'T FOR *HIS INTERVENTION,* YOU'D BE ON YOUR KNEES SWALLOWING 10 INCHES OF *BLACK PRISON DICK.*
HER *AUNT*... IN THE CAFETERIA. MS. SHIRLEY. JENNY HAD TO HAVE TOLD HER. SHE'LL START ASKING QUESTIONS--
THAT GIRL ALWAYS WAS *LOOKING FOR ATTENTION.* NOT THE FIRST TIME SHE TRIED TO KILL HERSELF OVER SOME STUD, EITHER. *HER FAST TAIL SELF.*
SHE GOT THAT MOTION FROM HER MOMMA. I TRIED TO DO WHAT I COULD WITH THAT GIRL. LORD KNOWS I DID. I'M *AT PEACE WITH IT ALL* AND READY TO MOVE ON.


NO. SHE WON'T.
YOU COULD TAKE A NOTE FROM HER. END THE QUESTIONS AND SILENCE YOURSELF. THIS IS THE TIME FOR YOU TO LISTEN AND LEARN, FOR YOUR REAL EDUCATION BEGINS NOW.


"THE DAY BEFORE THE COLORED GIRL LEAPT TO HER DEATH, SHE BEQUEATHED A COPY OF THE NANNY CAM FOOTAGE TO NONE OTHER THAN DEVIN FRYE. THE SAME BOY WHOSE LOVE SHE PREVIOUSLY SHOT DOWN. THE SAME BOY WHO REPULSED HER.
"BUT IN HER DARKEST MOMENTS, HE WAS THE ONLY ONE SHE COULD TURN TO. SHARED RACED. THAT WAS THE ONLY REQUIREMENT FOR HER TO TRUST HIM OVER ANYONE ELSE. THOSE ANIMALS ALWAYS FIND A WAY BACK TO THEIR OWN IN TIMES OF CRISIS.


"THE DAY AFTER THE COLORED GIRL LEAPT TO HER DEATH, DEVIN CAME INTO THIS OFFICE TO SHOW ME THE TAPE. HE WAS SITTING WHERE YOU ARE AT THIS MOMENT.
"I IMMEDIATELY HAD IT DESTROYED, AND DEVIN ALONG WITH IT.
"DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH DAMAGE THAT TAPE COULD'VE DONE TO THIS INSTITUTION'S REPUTATION?"

DAMAGE TO YOUR CLASSMATES? DAMAGE TO YOU? TO *YOUR FUTURE?*
HEAD HIGH, YOUNG MR. SINGLETARY. I'VE SUMMONED YOU, BECAUSE AN *IMPENETRABLE GREATNESS GESTATES WITHIN YOU.*
AND WITH MY *GUIDANCE AND MENTORSHIP*, I BELIEVE YOU WILL BECOME THE *SAVIOR OF YOUR RACE.*
I'VE NOMINATED YOU FOR CONSIDERATION INTO A...*SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.*
A *SELECTIVE COTERIE OF FUTURISTS* WHO ONLY ACCEPT ONE MEMBER *PER DECADE* INTO THEIR RANKS.
YOUNG MR. SINGLETARY, YOU *WILL BE THAT ONE.*
WE ARE *THE CURE FOR THIS GODLESS WORLD* AND YOU ARE GOING TO BE ITS *LEADER.*
AND ON THAT DAY, MY *INDUCTION* INTO *THE FOURTH TURNING* BEGAN, BUT SORRY. WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF PAGES AND PANEL SPACE, WHICH MEANS I'M ALL OUT OF TIME, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET TO THAT STORY *TODAY*. OR *TONIGHT*. OR *EVENING*. WHATEVER TIME IT IS YOU'RE READING THIS.
PERHAPS I'LL GET MY *OWN ONE-SHOT* AND TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT THEN.
♫ "ONE IN A MILLION" BY ♫ *GUNS N' ROSES* PLAYS.

VIOLENCE

"You have to understand that people have to pay a price for peace. If you dare to struggle, you dare to win."

— FRED HAMPTON

Chapter 05

SINK OR SWIM.
YOUR TIME TO SHOWCASE HAS ARRIVED, MR. SINGLETARY.
FOR THE PAST 24 MONTHS, YOU HAVE *BLOSSOMED*--

"TRAINED--
"LEARNED--
"PRACTICED--
"POLISHED--
"REMEMBERED--
"MOLDED--"

"DESTROYED--
"DECONSTRUCTED--
"ENDURED--
"ORGANIZED--
COMMUNIST
NIGG
"IMPROVISED--
"ANTAGONIZED--"

AND NOW, A FINAL TRIAL AWAITS. ***SHOULD YOU PASS***--YOU WILL ***ASCEND*** TO BE WELCOMED INTO A PANTHEON OF ***SUSTAINED COLLECTIVE GREATNESS.*** A SOCIETY OF FRIENDS WHO WILL SHAPE AND MEND THE WILL OF SOCIETY TO ITS FAVOR. SHOULD YOU FAIL...
SINK OR SWIM.
I WON'T FAIL! FAILURE IS--

"SINK OR SWIM.
"SINK OR SWIM.
"SINK OR SWIM.
"SINK OR SWIM.
"SINK OR SWIM.
"SINK OR SWIM."
"SINK OR SWIM."

SINK OR SWIM? NIGGA, WHAT PLANET ARE YOU EVEN ON RIGHT NOW? WHEREVER YOU ARE--COME BACK. WE GOT BIDNESS TO FINISH.
WE HAVE A CONVERSATION TO WRAP UP.
I CAN'T FEEL MY EXTREMITIES. WHAT IS SHE PUTTING IN ME?
FORGET ABOUT HER.
THIS IS ABOUT YOU, WAYNE. I NEED YOU TO CONCENTRATE, BUBBA.
WE TRYING TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THIS PLAN OF YOURS TO START A RACE WAR AND HOW EXACTLY YOUR BLACK ASS BENEFITS FROM SUCH AN OCCURRENCE.
42
YOU MAY NOT WANT TO HEAR THIS HARSH TRUTH, MY GUY, BUT DESPITE HOW HARD YOU TRY--
--YOU JUST ANOTHER NIGGER TO THESE WHITE FOLKS.
I'M NO NIGGER. I'M A PROUD BLACK MAN.
YOU DAMN SURE GOT A FUNNY WAY OF SHOWING IT.

I'M TRYING TO *SAVE US.*
THE EARTH IS AT A TIPPING POINT. OVERPOPULATION. THE *ESTABLISHED NORMS* SAFEGUARDING CIVILIZATION FOR CENTURIES WILL *UNRAVEL.* THE CHAMPIONED SHARED NORMS OF SOCIETY WE ABIDE BY WILL DETERIORATE AS RESOURCES DEPLETE.
LORDT HAVETH MERCY, IT'S GOING TO BE ONE OF *THOSE MANIFESTOS,* ISN'T IT?
FUCK.
THE NATION STATE WILL CRUMBLE, UNABLE TO FEND OFF THREATS, EXTERNAL OR INTERNAL. THE *GREAT RESET* TO COME IS *INEVITABLE.*
MANY WOULD ARGUE IT IS ALREADY *UPON US.*
THE BATTLE LINES TO BE ERECTED WILL BE *BASED ON RACE.* I'M MERELY A FORWARD THINKING INDIVIDUAL. I EXTRAPOLATE, THEN I *TAKE ACTION.*
I'M LOOKING OUT FOR US. FOR OUR PEOPLE. I'M GETTING *A HEAD START* ON THE *CERTAIN.*
BY RUNNING AROUND WITH *WHITE NATIONALISTS?*
GREATER BLACK MEN THAN *I* HAVE FACILITATED DIALOGUE WITH SUCH. I FOLLOW IN THEIR TRAILBLAZING FOOTSTEPS.
MEN LIKE *MARCUS GARVEY...*
THE FUCK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
CAN WE *KILL THE NASTY-MAN* ALREADY?

"JUNE IN THE YEAR OF NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-TWO, JAMAICAN BORN *BLACK NATIONALIST* MARCUS MOSIAH GARVEY MEETS IN ATLANTA WITH ONE EDWARD YOUNG CLARKE, *IMPERIAL GRAND WIZARD* OF THE *KU KLUX KLAN*."
I REGARD THE *KLAN*, AS FAR AS THE *NEGRO* IS CONCERNED, AS BETTER FRIENDS OF THE RACE THAN ALL OTHER GROUPS OF *HYPOCRITICAL WHITES* PUT TOGETHER.
I LIKE *HONESTY AND FAIR PLAY*.
YOU MAY CALL ME A *KLANSMAN* IF YOU WILL, BUT, POTENTIALLY, EVERY WHITE MAN IS A KLANSMAN AS FAR AS THE NEGRO IN COMPETITION WITH WHITES SOCIALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY IS CONCERNED, AND THERE IS *NO USE LYING*.
OH SHIT. CHECKS OUT. WHO KNEW?
IT'S *TRUE*. *MALCOLM X TOO*.

WE LONG FOR THE SAME THINGS. FREEDOM. EMANCIPATION FOR BLACK PEOPLE.
AND A RACE WAR LEADS TO THIS? HOW? DO EXPLAIN.
BY WAKING THE REST OF US UP!
JIM CROW NEVER ENDED. SLAVERY WAS NEVER ABOLISHED; IT JUST BECAME MORE SANITIZED.
SEPARATION IS SALVATION. A LAND, JUST US. FOR US. THRIVING. INNOVATING.
AS LONG AS WE LIVE SIDE BY SIDE WITH THEM...WE WILL ALWAYS BE FIGHTING FOR THEIR SCRAPS.

PHHHHWHHT!
I CALL BULLSHIT ON THE PLAY. DO NOT PROCEED. YOU'RE A SHRIMP DICK, TECH BRO. WHICH MEANS THIS BASTARDIZED, FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER WAKANDA YOU'RE ABOUT TO PITCH US, AIN'T ABOUT NO FUCKING FREEDOM.
BLACK CAPITALISM IS STILL CAPITALISM, WHICH MEANS HAVES AND HAVE-NOTS, WITH THE HAVES BEING CONTROLLED BY THE FEW.
THIS IS ABOUT MO-NEY. WHEN IS IT NEVER NOT WITH YOUR KIND?
SHAKE THE TABLE, BITCH. SHAKE THAT SHIT, COMRADE.
42
ZERO CHANCE HE DIDN'T HAVE A WHOLE ALGORITHM DIALED UP RUNNING DIFFERENT SCENARIOS ON HOW TO PROFIT FROM THE CHAOS. STOCKS. NATURAL RESOURCES. REAL ESTATE. INTEREST-FREE LOANS. DEFENSE. ALL THAT.
SINK OR SWIM.

THERE HE GO WITH THAT *SINK OR SWIM SHIT*, AGAIN.
SINK OR SWIM.
YOOOOOO.... HOLD UP! IS THIS WHAT I THINK IT IS?
"SINK OR SWIM."
WHAT?! WHAT IS IT?!
SINK OR SWIM.
THIS IS HATTIE McDANIEL'S OSCAR!
SINKORSWIM SINKORSWIMSINKORSWIM SINKORSWIM
HE STILL SAYING IT! *"SINK OR SWIM"* "SINK OR SWIM". WHY IS HE STILL SAYING IT?

I DON'T HAVE TELEPATHY. I CAN'T READ HIS MIND. WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?
"SINK OR SWIM.
SINK OR SWIM.
THIS MUG BEEN MISSING FOR DECADES. HOWARD U HAD IT LAST.
I WAS MEANT TO BE HERE.
I'M SO LOST.
ABOUT THE OSCAR OR HIM?
"SINK OR SWIM."
SINK OR SWIM.
YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T SPIKE THAT COCKTAIL YOU GOT GOING INTO HIM?

SINK OR SWIM.
LIL BIT. NOT ENOUGH FOR HIM TO BE *HALLUCINATING,* THOUGH.
"SINK OR SWIM.
I DON'T THINK Y'ALL UNDERSTAND--I'M STILL *TRIPPING* ON THIS.
THIS IS HATTIE McDANIEL'S OSCAR?! *WHAT THE SHIT.*
SINK OR SWIM.
I CAN'T WITH THIS *NIGGERONI RIGHT HERE.*
BRO, WE ARE GOING TO *KILL* YOU. YOU'RE GOING TO *DIE. HORRIFICALLY.*
"SINK OR SWIM."
MAYBE HE KNOWS HE'S *DYING*...AND...
AND HIS *LIFE* IS FLASHING BEFORE HIM--
SINK OR SWIM.

AND HE'S STUCK IN A PREVIOUS NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE LOOP. ONE WHERE HE'S DROWNING. I DON'T KNOW--
SINK OR SWIM.
"SINK OR SWIM.
SINK OR SWIM.
WE'RE GOING TO TORTURE YOU.
SINK OR SWIM.
"SINK OR SWIM."
SINK OR SWIM.
I CAN SEE MY REFLECTION IN HATTIE McDANIEL'S OSCAR.

WE'RE GOING TO STICK SHARP OBJECTS IN YOUR **DICK HOLE.**
SINK OR SWIM.
"SINK OR SWIM.
SINK OR SWIM.
SINK OR SWIM.
SIR! SHOW SOME RESPECT FOR THE DIRENESS THAT ARE YOUR ***FINAL MOMENTS.***
SINK OR SWIM.
"SINK OR SWIM."
SINK OR SWIM.

I'M KEEPING HER. THIS BABY GOT A NEW OWNER. *MWAH!*
"SINK OR--"
SWIM!

BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
ING!

ARGG

CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!

WHOA... TIME OUT... TIME OUT...
SHOULDN'T... HAVE PULLED... MY PUNCHES...
YOU WIN. I YIELD.
I YIELD.
I...
I HAVE...
I HAVE LIVED MORE IN 40 YEARS THAN MOST COULD EVER DARE TO LIVE IN A THOUSAND.

DEATH IS THE ONLY EXPERIENCE I'VE YET TO DANCE WITH.
I AM READY.
REWARD ME.
SAY LESS.

FOR DEVIN.
NAH, LIL NIGGA...

FOR THE CULTURE!
♫"NATURAL BORN KILLAZ" BY♫ DR. DRE (FT. ICE CUBE) PLAYS.

GREAT EXPECTATONS

It doesn't end the way you think it will. This book. The one in your hands right now. It won't end that way.

No doubt, you're probably gonna reach that last page of the first issue and think to yourself, "I know exactly where this book is going." But believe you me when I tell ya, you don't have a clue.

In many ways, that kind of unpredictability encapsulates the spirit and core of ***They Choose Violence:*** Wholesale rejection of expectations.

Expectations of gender… Expectations of race… Expectations of justice… Expectations of civility.

The truth of the matter is, we're not very nice to each other these days. It would be easy (and, quite frankly, lazy) to assign the blame on COVID bringing the world to a halt. But those of us paying attention saw the seeds of hyper-impatience and micro-cruelty planted, cultivated, and harvested long before mask mandates and toilet paper hoarding were ever a thing. I'm not bold enough to articulate *why* the transition happened, nor am I confident in formulating a hypothesis up to snuff as to *what* induced the change, *how* it unfolded, *who* is to blame, or *why* it persists.

The only thing I'm certain of is we're here. Already arrived. At a point in this li'l thing we call civilization, where violence has been normalized to such a degree that it's on the precipice of being the preferred and only acceptable response to conflict resolution. We've all been complicit – whether through inaction or active engagement – in erecting a society where sympathy, empathy, compassion, and patience are punishable traits assigned to Beta runts, while aggression, intimidation, coercion, and retaliation are rewarded.

We've come a long way from Michelle Obama being celebrated for telling us to go high when they go low.

Now? It's more like "When they go low, you go subterranean." Getting your lick back has gone mainstream. Vengeance is increasingly recognized as the only viable, appropriate action to an ever-growing list of acts (both real or perceived) of disrespect. There's a palpable anger marinating out there, driven by a reasonable distrust in a corrupt and unequal justice system that's led to a legitimization of one taking matters into their own hands.

I'm not sure some folks realize just where that road eventually leads to.

Now, I suppose this is the part where I need to make clear that the purpose of this book isn't to advocate or promote one viewpoint over another. I ain't trying to preach or judge. There's no agenda here other than observation and entertainment. But with that said …

My hope with ***They Choose Violence*** is to muse about what a full-scale embrace of violence would truly look like. It's feasibility. The consequences. The collateral damage. The emotional toll. The descent into darkness. The morality of it all. Because believe it or not, this story is ultimately about you.

No, for real. Seriously.

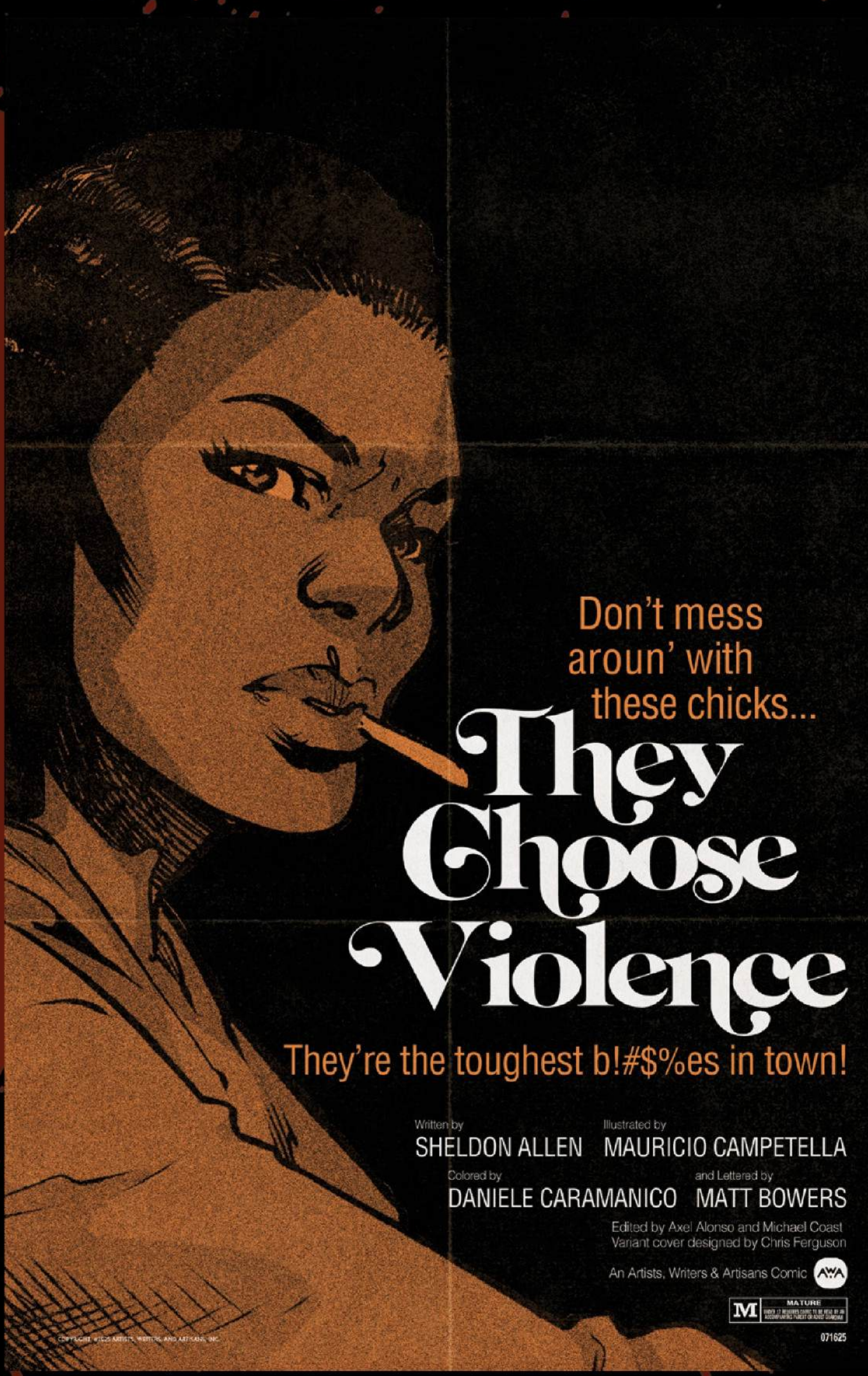
Black. White. Latino. Him. Her. Them. They. Conservative. Liberal. Woke. Based. Red-pilled. Whatever your identity. Choose your flavor. Doesn't matter. It's still about you and how you receive these pages. I want you to use our story to ask difficult questions about your own views. I want you to challenge your own allegiances. I want you to be uncomfortable at how comfortable you are with some of the material. I want you to examine whether your belief system is built upon a solid foundation.

Who knows…maybe you walk away concluding there is. Maybe nothing changes at all. No matter where you land, I guarantee, it'll be one wild ride, and I for one cannot wait for you to make it to the end.

I'll be waiting.

Sheldon Allen
May 2025

They Choose Violence #2-5 homage variant covers designed by Chris Ferguson


Don't mess
aroun' with
these chicks...
They
Choose
Violence
They're the toughest b!#$%es in town!
Written by
SHELDON ALLEN
Illustrated by
MAURICIO CAMPETELLA
Colored by
DANIELE CARAMANICO
and Lettered by
MATT BOWERS
Edited by Axel Alonso and Michael Coast
Variant cover designed by Chris Ferguson
An Artists, Writers & Artisans Comic
M MATURE
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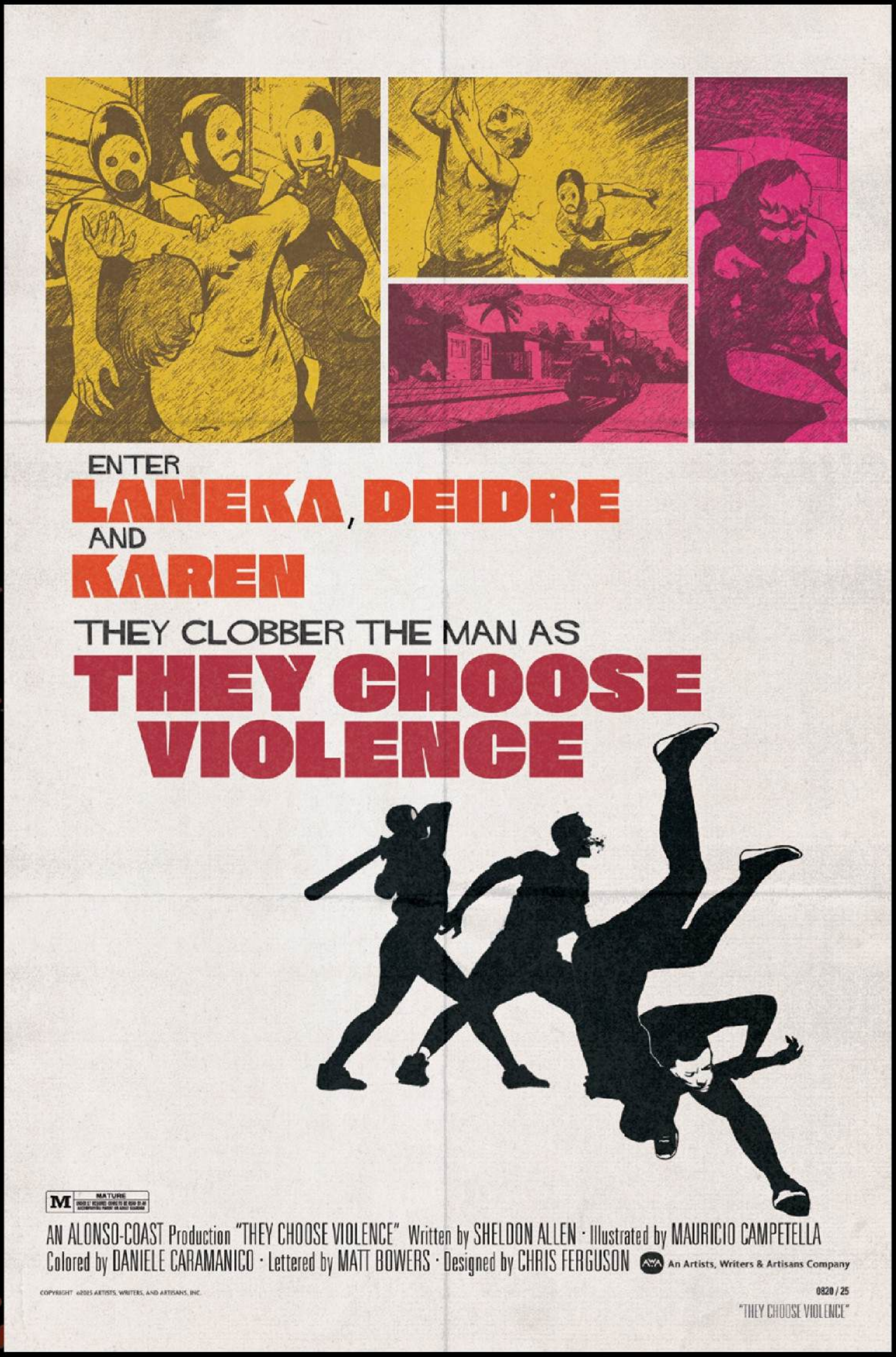
ENTER
LANEKA, DEIDRE
AND
KAREN
THEY CLOBBER THE MAN AS
THEY CHOOSE
VIOLENCE
M MATURE
AN ALONSO-COAST Production "THEY CHOOSE VIOLENCE" Written by SHELDON ALLEN · Illustrated by MAURICIO CAMPETELLA
Colored by DANIELE CARAMANICO · Lettered by MATT BOWERS · Designed by CHRIS FERGUSON
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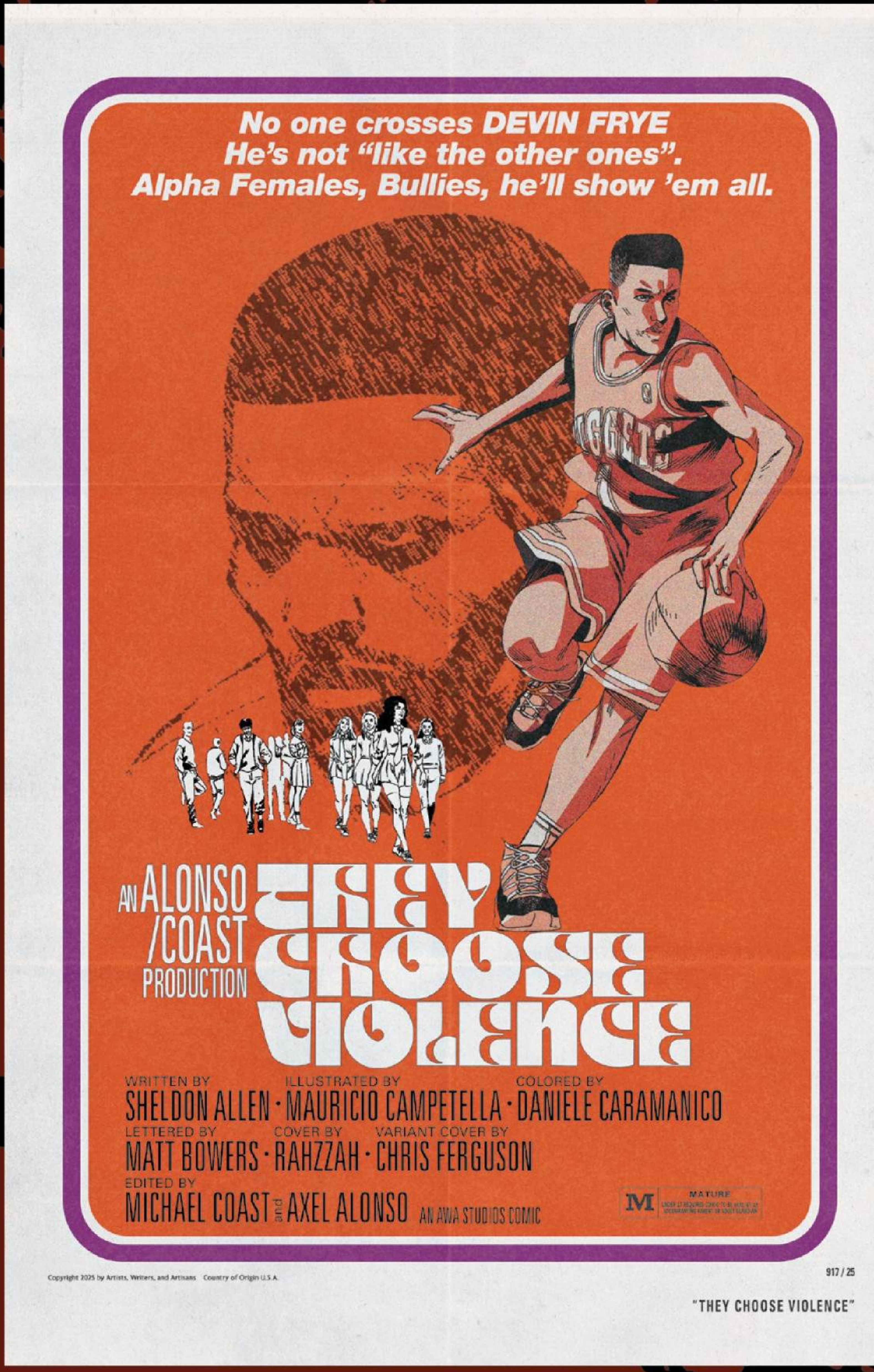
"THEY CHOOSE VIOLENCE"


No one crosses DEVIN FRYE
He's not "like the other ones".
Alpha Females, Bullies, he'll show 'em all.
NUGGETS
AN ALONSO
/COAST
PRODUCTION
THEY
CHOOSE
VIOLENCE
WRITTEN BY
SHELDON ALLEN ·
ILLUSTRATED BY
MAURICIO CAMPETELLA ·
COLORED BY
DANIELE CARAMANICO
LETTERED BY
MATT BOWERS ·
COVER BY
RAHZZAH ·
VARIANT COVER BY
CHRIS FERGUSON
EDITED BY
MICHAEL COAST and AXEL ALONSO
AN AWA STUDIOS COMIC
M MATURE
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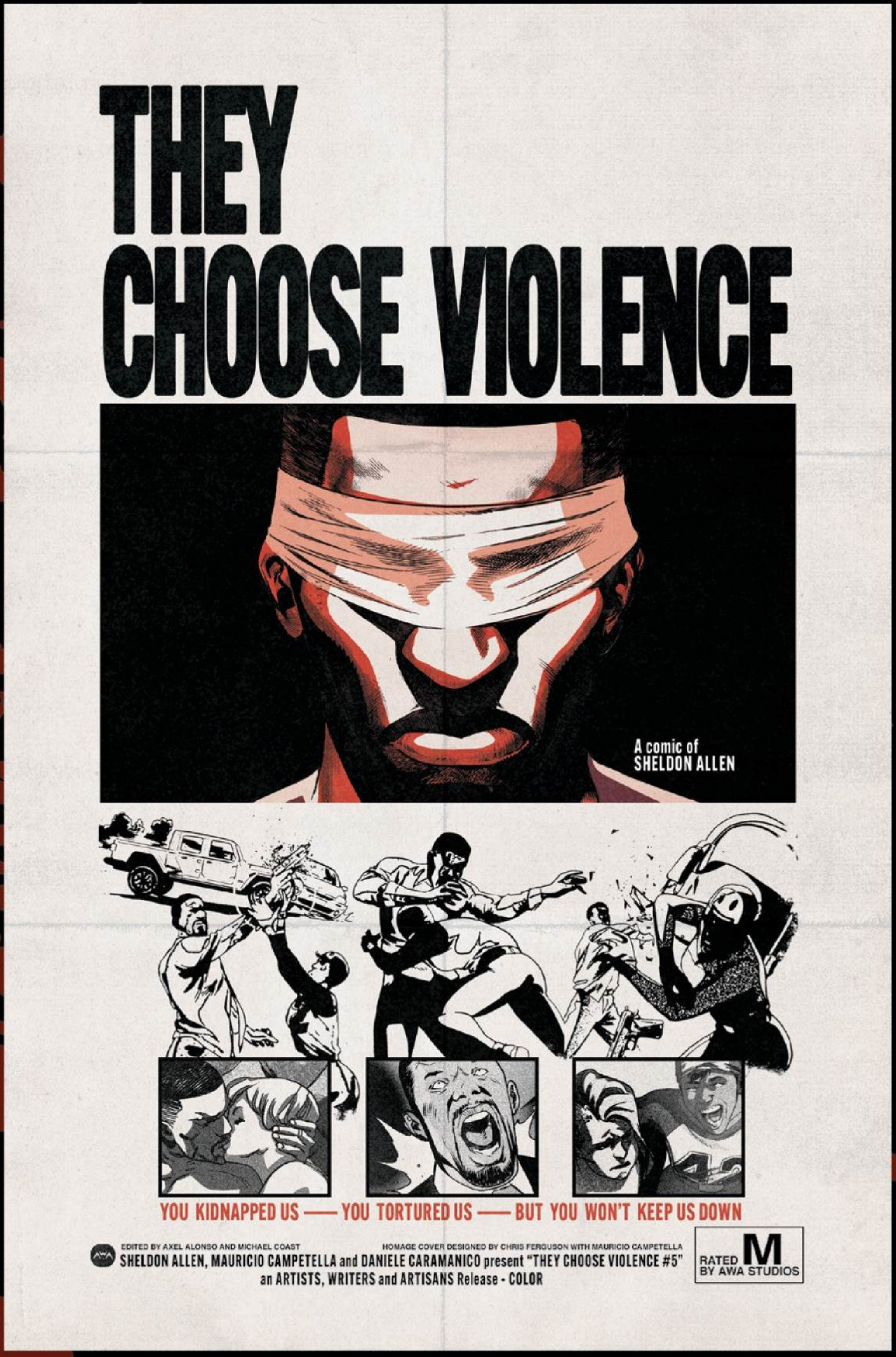
"THEY CHOOSE VIOLENCE"


THEY
CHOOSE VIOLENCE
A comic of
SHELDON ALLEN
YOU KIDNAPPED US —— YOU TORTURED US —— BUT YOU WON'T KEEP US DOWN
EDITED BY AXEL ALONSO AND MICHAEL COAST
HOMAGE COVER DESIGNED BY CHRIS FERGUSON WITH MAURICIO CAMPETELLA
SHELDON ALLEN, MAURICIO CAMPETELLA and DANIELE CARAMANICO present "THEY CHOOSE VIOLENCE #5"
an ARTISTS, WRITERS and ARTISANS Release - COLOR
RATED M BY AWA STUDIOS